

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmallock** Ref: **121**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **292**
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	50	40	40
Landscaping	50	41	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	28
Litter Control	50	34	35
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	16	16
Tidiness	30	16	18
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	286	292

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for a most eye-catching and well-planned entry which makes the reading all the more interesting for the adjudicator. Kilmallock has been a fixture of the TidyTowns Competition for over one third of a century now! Many thanks for your continued involvement - it's really important for your town, but also the competition itself. Your committee is - no surprise - well organised and has good participation and support. You link well with other groups and communication is carried out over a wide range of media. Your marks have improved steadily, well done. It is suggested that you expand upon your 3-year plan.

The Built Environment:

Well done on your work on the holy well. Kilmallock is steeped in history and it's great that you are keeping sites like this in mind. Your work on derelict buildings is very important. The adjudicator was very impressed with how you have looked after some of these. The artwork on Wolfe Tone Street is a good example. The factory across the road has been made safe. There are very nice details on the well-painted house next door. Could all of the murals on the empty houses / premises be used to reflect their erstwhile use (like the cobbler's). The Blossom Gate is beautiful. There was a football lodged (somehow) in the eastern window... what is the steel bracket on the town side for? It should be removed if not for any current purpose. The Stone Mansion is lovely. The 'up-painting' of shops here was admired. However, the adjudicator feels that this needs a coherent plan. E.g. the simply different slogan and silhouetted MTB rider is designed to promote this area for a purpose. What are the others for? A certain standard of artwork should be agreed as well. The Priory was beautiful on the clear day of visit. The finger sign for the priory needs to be redone. The museum looked very well. The national school is proudly flying a Green Flag - well done. The front wall needs to be cleaned at very least. The barrier here is askew. Colaiste Iosa is a very impressive building. It is great to see a Green Flag at a 2nd level college - not common enough! The collegiate church is beautiful. One of the stations of the cross is askew here and a little bit of repair is needed to the stone wall. Friar's Gate looked really well and busy on adjudication day. The new Courthouse and library are beautifully done. It's great to see heritage buildings still in use and so sensitively joined to the new. The library is very pleasant and compact. It is suggested that all of the car-park signage is lowered down to ground level in order to reduce the impact of the car-park on the civic space here. The Fire Station looks great. The bike shop fits tardis-like within a heritage building. But there is no visual impact save the sail-signs which are moved when the shop is closed and actually add colour. Also colourful is the Xpress

service station which, though very busy was neat and clutter-free. Nearby, the Fire Station looks very well. A couple of public houses have lovely shopfronts but are in need of cleaning and a little tidying up. The Dansko Food Ltd premises were very neat and tidy. Baalbec House is in need of cleaning and a pane is broken here. People's Hall was neat and tidy. The advertising for Ballyhoura Cycling looks great on this old building. But the adjacent prefab construction looks very poor.

Landscaping:

Well done on the tree-planting programme. This is a great undertaking. The adjudicator was impressed to find the planting plan in your entry. Your group helps to manage a large area which isn't obvious on first visiting Kilmallock. There is very nice planting on the bridge but strictly speaking, it isn't necessary. If you wished, you could let the stone speak for itself. The black lion planters were admired. The landscape planting opposite the college is first-class. The People's Park and the Famine Park are lovely in their simplicity.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on commissioning the report for the proposed wildlife area. This is an example of good planning. Be sure to take the recommendations on board. You have co great work with the school and please do keep this up! It is clear from your entry that your group is appreciative of and loves the wild aspects of Kilmallock which are considerable. The old-style (birds in oils) wildlife interpretation board at the river is accurate and attractive. The river is beautiful here. There is much water crowfoot - a good sign. There is also unfortunately, some giant hogweed. Ask Mr Kennelly for advice on how to tackle this invasive species. Invasive Species Ireland will also give you advice (www.invasivespeciesireland.org). There is also Japanese knotweed on Orr St. Between your wildlife areas and your work with the school, you will have enough to keep you busy for the year and beyond!

Litter Control:

You have regular litter-picks which is great. Your entry also shows that you undertake other events such as the Spring Clean and the Clean Mile. Well done. Some litter was seen in the People's Park (where some drinking had been going on). Otherwise, litter control was very good on adjudication day. Do please check with Mr Kennelly or Inland Fisheries Ireland on which months you should and shouldn't be undertaking litter-picks out of the river - this could be very important to protect fisheries.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Well done for your participation in Green Town Kilmallock but the adjudicator would have liked some further detail on this. Congratulations to Colaiste Iosaef for their multiple achievements. Sustainable Waste & Resource Management is a newly modified section of the competition. You are advised to consult the literature provided by the TidyTowns Unit on Sustainable Waste & Resource Management and the guidelines in the entry form. In these, you will find many examples of suitable projects and initiatives. You'll find that you're probably doing some of these already but look at the list of projects and initiatives and see where you 'tick boxes' and what you can do next.

Tidiness:

Well done on the audit of signs, posters and old relics of recent victories. This is an important step but often overlooked. Your follow-up work washing the signage was noted. However, some were left behind such as the parking prohibited sign on Wolfe Tone Street. The backs of signs should be cleaned as well, if possible. Could the Special Olympics sign be renewed in some way? It's rather faded. The GAA name sign needs to be touched-up and the Garda Station sign is in need of cleaning. Auctioneer's signage shouldn't be allowed to dominate gable walls.

Residential Areas:

The difficulty your town and County Council has with responsibility for estates is in no way unique to Kilmallock or Co. Limerick. You are advised to provide what practical help and support that you can to residents to keep such areas as well as possible. The adjudicator found that most green areas were well cut and edged neatly. Avoid herbicides as much as possible. Most road surfaces on entrances and estates were quite good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Well done on the stone wall survey. This is an important piece of work. The repairs to stone walls are also quite essential. The approach road from Charleville is much enhanced now. The 50kph warning sign is obscured by vegetation. The rural character of the approach is maintained here with the walls and verges. The car-park at the back of the People's Park (no street names here) is quite neat but there was some litter. Some empty premises here have some graffiti. On the edges of the town (Charleville side), a few gates are in need of painting. The railings of the mart are in need of painting also. Some tree-planting here would be of benefit. The footpath is in good condition but a little bit of weed control is needed. Some directional signage here is obscured or dirty. It was noted that the very nice name sign here can be obscured by parked cars. Could a space be allocated for no parking? The right hand side of the road heading out of town should be left as is - nicely wild. The factory signage is in need of cleaning and a little paint. The Newmarket Road wall is in need of repair. The pavement here is in good condition. Gortboy service station was very neat and well kept at time of visit. The town heritage walk is excellent - very simple but effective signage. The handpainted map at the museum was

admired. There is lovely tree-planting in the People's Park. There was some litter at the memorial bench. The approach road from Bruff has a profusion of signage. A total of 12 statutory and informal signs are to be found at the bend at the bridge. The informal signage should go. The planters on the bridge are good but the wall on the left hand side (east) should be fixed as a priority. The river name sign is askew here. A smarter travel plaque was admired beside the empty bike rack in the full car-park. The playground was lovely. The walking and cycling signage is very good indeed. There is a sign pole askew at the entrance to the car-park here.

General Impression:

Kilmallock is a really lovely town with a quite air of history and heritage. Your group has done much of late and the quality of the work completed speaks of your experience. Well done to all involved.