

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmuckridge** Ref: **890**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **269**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	50	38	38
Landscaping	50	38	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20	20
Litter Control	50	35	35
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	10	10
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>269</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns to the 2013 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. It is presented in a bound volume with lots of colour photos, press cuttings, notices, emails and map. Your population category is "Village B". Your committee of 11 is appropriate for your population. At this point may I suggest that you take care when giving information about your committee members. Kilmuckridge is very well organised with such a variety of groups. Your support network is extensive. In addition to the print media you use social media to communicate. Well done to Kilmuckridge's 2 schools for their commitment to the Green Flag Programme, the primary school with its 5 Green Flags – a terrific achievement. The primary school setting an example for the secondary school! The schools are also to be commended for their beach clean-up days. Your comments about how your community has benefited from the Tidy Towns competition are well made. The cutting up of old/dangerous trees, distributing that timber to senior citizens and planting 2 trees to replace the cut-up one, is a very commendable initiative. Well done to those volunteers. Having Tidy Tots and Tidy Teens is also an excellent initiative which will ensure a supply of volunteers for the future. Your strategy of delegating specific projects/areas of concern to others is also commended. We look forward to receiving a copy of your 5 year plan with next year's entry. Best wishes to Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns in this year's competition.

### The Built Environment:

Kilmuckridge Village is blessed with a good built environment which has been enhanced over the years by a caring community. There are attractive old buildings and equally attractive modern ones which are in harmony with each other. The older infrastructure gives the village its character while the newer developments convey a dynamic community that is providing modern facilities for visitors who are so important to the economy of the village. The 2 schools contrast nicely. Scoil Iosaf Naofa (St Joseph's N.S.) is a traditional school design, well painted, hanging baskets, raised beds at the entrance, neat and tidy. Colaiste an Atha is a modern, eye-catching design that projects a confidence in the future. St Mary's R.C. church and the Church of Ireland church both look well, as do the 2 graveyards.

Kilmuckridge Resource Centre is colourful and the 2 flower beds at the base of the walls add more colour. Sean Og's hotel is another eye-catching building on the outskirts of the village. Nice landscaping. It is well presented as are the holiday homes next to it. Car park clean and tidy but the wire fence needs attention. The thatched cottage was admired. Kilmuckridge Memorial Hall looks well, clean, tidy and with a long flower bed to the front.

The 1798 memorial stone and path were clean and are flanked by 2 well planted flower beds. Morriscastle beach car park was clean and tidy. The recycling area will be commented on in the Litter Category. The toilet block is well designed and was clean and tidy and the handrail on the wheelchair ramp is newly painted. Litter bins clean and planted area well maintained. In short, an excellent amenity. The Grotto looked stunning. Plenty of colour, freshly painted wall, well-kept grass and box hedging flanking the path. All neat and tidy. Well done to the team that keeps it so well. The memorial stone to Rose Larkin was noted. Derelict houses are well treated to reduce their impact.

### **Landscaping:**

The standard of landscaping in Kilmuckridge is generous and high. Whether it is Kilmuckridge or owners of commercial properties or private residences special effort is put into creating a major visual impact. Village name stones are in a bed of flowers. The focal point of the village is the junction of Blackwater Road and Church Road with the raised island flower bed with the village pump standing proudly in the centre. A wonderful floral feature. The nicely painted cart with its load of flowers adds to the junction, as does John's house and garden with their spectacular floral display. The pub opposite adds to all of the summer colour with lots of hanging baskets and window boxes. The new flower beds at Glanbia enhance the approach to the village. The picnic area is delightful with well painted tables and benches, trees, shrubs and flowers, well-kept grassed area complete with white boat's hull ablaze with colourful flowers. This area is very well landscaped.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

This is a category where Kilmuckridge can, and should, score additional marks. There is easy access to the sea and its wildlife. There are extensive sand dunes and lush, pastoral countryside with plenty of hedges and trees. Many of the projects listed in your entry form are in the future tense. Also, "continuing work on Morriscastle Way" does not tell the adjudicator what was done for this year's competition. The day course on graveyard memorial recording organised by Wexford County Council was an excellent initiative that should be done by other local authorities.

### **Litter Control:**

The photos in your entry submission illustrate the numbers and ages of those volunteers deployed on cleaning duties in the village and on the beach. Well done to all involved. There was no litter evident on adjudication day. The recycling centre in the village was clean and tidy. Two tubs of flowers enhance the area. The 3 containers at the Morriscastle beach car park were clean and tidy. The new litter bins were noted. Your litter control programme and the TUS and FAS workers are keeping litter under control.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

Some Tidy Towns groups find this category challenging. The waste pyramid in the entry form has been redesigned to make the priority areas more visual and it is an upside-down pyramid. Elimination of waste is top of the priority list. In setting out the criteria for this category the entry form starts with "Promotion of best practice in waste and resource management". Most of the actions listed in your entry form lie in the waste treatment part of the pyramid rather than higher up in the priority area of waste prevention. There are useful websites such as [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie). Last year's adjudicators report urged you to register with [www.greenhomes.ie](http://www.greenhomes.ie). The primary school with its 5 Green Flags will be operating a very strict regime of waste elimination. No doubt the pupils have been encouraged to practice these waste elimination techniques at home. Many Tidy Towns groups have partnership projects with local schools which are in the Green Flag Programme. Use the parish newsletter and your Facebook page to promote best practice. The Tidy Towns Handbook also has advice and tips.

### **Tidiness:**

There were few tidiness issues in Kilmuckridge on adjudication day. Directional signs are clean and adequate. There were no weed control issues or fly-posting. However, there is a black spot in relation to graffiti. The Water Supply Reservoir site is heavily graffitied. This category is not about clean-ups. They belong in the Litter Control category. Planting at Glanbia is for the landscaping category.

### **Residential Areas:**

The projects listed in your entry form for this category are mainly in the future tense so there are very few completed projects for the adjudicator to evaluate on adjudication day. It would be invidious for an adjudicator to compare housing estates, particularly when there are representatives of some estates on your committee. First impressions are important, for Kilmuckridge in general based on approach roads, and for residential areas based on their entrances. Greenwood Avenue has a very good entrance which is important given its location in the centre of the village. Good entrances also at Silverdale and Chestnut Walk. Morriscastle Village, not on your map, has a par 3 golf course at its entrance to well-presented holiday homes.

Tourism in the form of visitors using holiday homes is very important to the economy of Kilmuckridge. Income to the commercial premises in the village is equivalent to a significant number of permanent residents. Summer employment must also increase. It gives this adjudicator great pleasure to say that a very good balance exists between the holiday homes and the local community's residential areas. They co-exist in harmony thanks to the efforts of Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns to make the village an attractive holiday destination and to the owners of the holiday homes who operate to high standards.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On the approach from Oulart the village name stone has both Irish and English. It is on a stone base on a raised flower bed. Well-tended grass verges on both sides of the road. Young trees planted on opposite verge. Good first impression of Kilmuckridge. The approach from Ballyraggett has a black and white metal name sign standing in a flower bed. The approach on the Enniscorthy Road also gives a good first impression thanks to the very nice picnic area which is well presented, complete with white boat well filled with colourful flowers. The new planting at Glanbia also enhances the approach. The Blackwater approach also gives a good first impression. Surfaces are adequate. There were no issues with any of the criteria for this category on adjudication day.

**General Impression:**

You identify challenges that need to be dealt with and your new 5 year plan will help your Tidy Towns group to prioritise these. Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns can, and should, score more marks. You should look at the marks in each category and identify those in which you can complete projects to earn more marks.