

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmessan**

Ref: **399**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **211**

Category: **B**

Date: **19/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	25	27
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>207</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for this year's entry to Tidy Towns Competition, which was excellently completed and included a Map of the village. However, in next year's submission it is very important to also include a three to five-year plan. It would be of great help to the Adjudicator to show the work being done as well as being of considerable benefit to the Committee itself in monitoring its yearly progress. The Committee is to be congratulated on their work with the County Council, FÁS and the local school. It is very important to continue this liaison with the Statutory bodies. Congratulations also on being in the 2003 village urban renewal programme which is organised by the County Council.

### The Built Environment:

Kilmessan has a population of approximately 600 and is an important local village located between the R154 and the N3. It is situated on the river Skane which cuts across about the centre of Main Street. Basically the plan of the village is of a long main street with fine minor roads leading into it, three at the northern end and two at the southern end. Except at the northern end there is little development in depth. This narrow building fabric is bound to change as increased development comes to the village. There is a very fine grouping of public buildings on the Main Street, consisting of a Church and two school buildings and graveyard which will undoubtedly form the core of an enlarged village. The nearness of the village to Tara and the recently refurbished disused railway station will ensure the village an increased tourist trade if it is sought. However, all this new

development puts a heavy burden on the Tidy Towns Committee to develop a realistic three or five-year Plan.

### **Landscaping:**

There are some very fine front gardens within the village and on the approach roads which give a very pleasing appearance and sense of welcome. There are many new houses being built in the village and it is suggested to the Committee that they promote a Garden Competition to encourage the development of gardens with these new houses. This should also encourage the new residents of the village to participate in the Tidy Towns Competition. A programme of having floral hanging baskets on Main Street is also suggested which in order to bring more colour to this street.

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

There was no mention of a wildlife programme in either the Entry Form or on the Village Map (indeed the river Skane is not shown). This is often difficult to achieve without the presence of a natural amenity, however an ideal resource exists in the Skane river which is within the village. It is suggested that the Committee should contact ENFO to obtain some of their excellent publications on the creation of wildlife sanctuaries or nature trails. The river, on the day of adjudication, was heavily polluted by the remains of a dead animal in the water. This would be one of the hazards to plan for when developing this river as a wildlife sanctuary and it is very important that the river is continually monitored for such events. The Adjudicator will look forward to a start of this river project, together with the strong involvement of pupils from the school.

### **Litter Control:**

Practically no litter was seen in the village on the day of adjudication, except for the odd wind-blown paper. This achievement deserves every praise to the Committee and the school pupils. This exercise is also important in that it gives the children involved a pride in their surroundings. The Adjudicator did not see the five bin recycling unit in the village. If it does not exist, the Committee should discuss this with the County Council who supply the units free. This recycling unit, together with litter bins, should contribute to a litter-free village.

### **Tidiness:**

On the day of adjudication the village was very tidy and very pleasant and was a credit to the Committee. During the school holidays there is often the tendency to neglect the school grounds. This was not the case in Kilmessan. Nevertheless it is important that the Committee, along with pupils from the school, keep the car park area free of any litter and the grassed areas cut on a two-weekly basis. This is a very visible site adjoining the Church and every effort should be made to maintain the lawns to the highest standards during the holidays.

### **Residential Areas:**

As mentioned under Landscape, the Committee should consider the introduction of a Gardens Competition to improve the quality of the new gardens.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

There are five roads leading into the village. Generally they are most pleasant and give an inviting welcome. The Adjudicator recognises the amount of work needed to present these road areas to a finished level. It is suggested that, in some cases, where the verges are wide that only one to one and a half metres is more than sufficient to cut. The remaining uncut areas would then be left to develop as areas of wild flowers.

Signage is an item that needs to be addressed - more direction and speed signs are needed and

existing signs should be cleaned and free of grass. Though the Adjudicator had only one day to assess traffic within the village, it was evident that some traffic calming measures were urgently needed. The Committee should keep pressing the County Council on these matters.

**General Impression:**

The Kilmessan Tidy Towns Committee have obviously worked very hard and have achieved good results. They are to be congratulated.