

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildorrery** Ref: **457**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **279**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2013**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2012 | Mark Awarded 2013 |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 38 | 39 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 37 | 37 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 38 | 39 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 26 | 28 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 34 | 39 |
| Sustainable Waste And Resource Management | 20 | 11 | 11 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 19 | 19 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 25 | 26 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 32 | 33 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 268 | 279 |

Overall Development Approach:

Kildorrery TidyTowns is welcome to the TidyTowns Competition for 2013 and we wish you the very best with your entry. Thank you for your completed entry form, the map, the folder of supplementary material. The photos are very helpful mainly in the built environment section as they show how buildings have been preserved through the hard work and concern of the Kildorrery community. Your committee has been travelling this road now for many years and knows what does and does not work for your village. The fact that you have been awarded funding from the Cork County Council illustrates your standing with that body and shows how well your projects are appreciated. It is so easy to understand why more people wish to become involved with a successful committee. A special 'Go raibh Míle Maith Agaibh' to the children in the school who created the working map of Kildorrery for the adjudicator. Not only is it a work of art in its own right, it is most helpful in guiding the adjudicator around the village. The adjudicator hopes it is archived for future generations.

The Built Environment:

The main street as a unit can be taken as the major element of your built environment. The adjudicator deals with this under General Impression because of the impact that street makes in that category. But there are individual buildings that deserve mention. The presentation and maintenance of the Church, the Community centre and school is a credit to your community. Shop signage is a feature of the street. There is the older signage as at Thornhills and at what was once a business at O'Farrell's and at a building beside Ollies, Monaghan and at Enhancement Burke. One has never to travel far without a new gem of information about the village, or the poets of Kildorrery, or of the wildlife birds and animals. The past and surroundings of the village are made ever present, sometimes on information panels that are well maintained and colourful or on many occasions the village past is immortalised in stone. Did PJ Lonergan ever expect that a full verse of his would outlive him in stone in his native patch or master Donaghan? But businesses of the present add to the colour of the street also as is the case with the antique shop, or Ollies Lounge Bar, Walshes Corner House Bar. But there are challenges with no quick-fix, one feels. An example would be the terrace just off the village centre on the Limerick road. What a shame that the planners did not insist that the fronts of the buildings be in keeping with the rest of the village. There is what might once have been a hay shed near the school but it would contribute to the village image if its painting was refreshed. Among the many amenities one discovers in Kildorrery is the delightfully bright play area. The grotto sparkles. There are remnants of walls that were once a part of the built fabric of the village. An example is around the cemetery, or out on the road across from the

grotto or at the back of housing down in the Topaz yard. All very good.

Landscaping:

In this category you excel. One notices the genius of the green fingers from afar. There is a planting plan evident as soon as one comes within the Kildorrery signs.

Individuals add their own colour with hanging baskets and window boxes and these are not excessive. Some people along the street leading to the Limerick approach road do wonders with their floral arrangements. The tub of flowers on the weighing scale might seem excessive to some but is enjoyed by this adjudicator. The raised bed at the village junction in honour of your Pride of Place achievement softens that corner. The planting at the front of the school and at the wall to the rear of the GAA grounds reflect one another and are inspirational. Not only is the planting admired in the beds at the school but the stone surrounds are also delightful. The children will remember the beautiful surroundings that were created for them in their youth, a glowing example being the colourful planting around the play area. The cat mint in the beds up near the community garden not only adorn the entrance to the estate but they reflect what is happening inside the fence. Topaz contributes to the floral carnival. Here and there we came across benches that facilitate looking out on the countryside. The beds at the entrance to the Irish Tree Centre need some attention. In fact there is another bed up the road from here that also needs attention. The adjudicator hopes that some member of committee is not going to be scolded on account of these comments on apparent neglect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator hopes that you will forgive me for not travelling on your wildlife trail. I hope it was not completed when the visit took place. The fact that you are opening it in conjunction with your Gathering celebration seems most appropriate and is sure to inspire a new generation of poets in the village. The fact that you have now involved the youth in the wildlife projects is also admirable. The pheasant project is, for this adjudicator, also a novel project and hopefully will be a great success. Well done to the Trout Anglers club for their care of the fish stocks. You have now on hand a biodiversity plan for the next few years. Your information panels are a great support in making the wildlife of the village accessible to the visitor. One of the information panels tells us of the Kildorrery looped walks. Others describe the birds and mammals of the village and its environs. All great.

Litter Control:

Congratulations to you on winning the North Cork Litter Challenge for the third successive year. And a special well done on the prize you rewarded yourselves. As you say a really worthy litter awareness occasion. And signs on. This is a battle that your group is winning. Creating awareness among the school children is admirable, participation in the Spring Clean another great project. There was very little litter evident, some up at the GAA, some in an estate, a little dropped by passing traffic on the main road. The area around the Bring Centre is litter free.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

The adjudicator delighted at the community garden, not just the appearance which was enjoyed but the concept and the practice. Your submission gives further information on the numbers involved in taking allotments. A great story. Not only your group should be proud of the Green Flag at the school but all involved in achieving Green Flag Status at the school should be proud also. Now for the next flag.

But more is required of you in this section. This year's adjudicator urges you to read the new, revised Tidy Towns handbook on waste management and resource management and maybe pick one project that would be meaningful for Kildorrery. You might also register your group with greenhomes.ie. Registration is free and takes a few minutes and the suggestions are bound to stimulate new projects in the home with some members of your group.

Tidiness:

Tidiness is created in the attention devoted to the appearance of the approach roads. This is a wonderful start. It is also created in the beautifully painted buildings on the streets. Tidiness is reinforced in the fine footpaths where they exist. The cables are like the interference on a TV set as one watches a classic programme. Because there is so much quality all around ten metres of untended grass margin becomes an eyesore. There were a number of posters on the Mitchelstown road that were not in tune with their surroundings nor with the image you would wish to portray. Fortunately, this practice was not replicated in the rest of the village. Out of all the immaculately presented information panels the adjudicator came across one near the picnic area that needs renewal. There are a couple of gates on the Mallow road that need attention. There is a breached wall down here too that needs a hand.

Residential Areas:

The individual houses throughout the village contribute handsomely to your purposes. These houses add colour to the approach roads. Along the streets what were once village businesses are now residential properties and add to the village vista by the delightful painting of their fronts. Then we have the estates. The first visited was Oak Lawn, lovely. But the adjudicator became distracted by the community garden, that being such a great surprise. Gort na Sí is developing and the landscaping is settling in. The new terrace near Topaz looks well and it is disappointing that the estate behind at Hillcrest is unfinished. But as if to fight back and keep up morale there is a lovely flower bed at the entrance and a lovely shrubbery inside. Bearna Deara is also a fine place in which to live with lovely planting at the end of the estate. The semi detached cottages have been part of the

Kildorrery story for many years and now as much as ever bring colour and character to their surroundings.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads create a sense of anticipation in the traveller, an anticipation that something uplifting on the journey is about to happen. Care is expressed in the welcome signs, in the grass margin cutting, in the picnic area, in the shrubberies, in the tree planting, in the provision of hedging and in its maintenance, in the back breaking begonia planting. The width of the Mallow road creates a sense of space and the grass is attractively maintained. Road widening is seen as an opportunity to create a farm machinery museum or to honour another poet or to inform us about the wildlife and heritage of this village. A fine footpath to town on the Mallow Road and Limerick approach. In the village the big yard to the rear of Topaz is well cleaned, well-maintained and practical. As one leaves that yard area there is an old building which is made prominent by the yard exit. It has an upstairs door that needs painting. All along the street there is provision for parking. The lane signs on the Mitchelstown road suggest heavy traffic through the village but they must be traffic calming measures also and certainly lend to driving safety.

General Impression:

Perched atop a hill with panoramic views all round one can understand how poets who left home felt nostalgic for their native Kildorrery. Inspiration comes easy in a natural setting like this. Those who first constructed the main street were artistic artisans who bequeathed memorable finish to doorways, window sills and facades. As times change your contribution to the preservation of this built heritage is vital and you take your work seriously. The standard of presentation and of maintenance is superb. Defending the appearance and preservation of your streetscape will always be an onerous obligation on Kildorrery TidyTowns committees. Landscaping is less permanent and you handle that well also.