

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilcullen** Ref: **371**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **259**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **08/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	13
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>259</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Kilcullen is very welcome to the 2008 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for the completed entry form, the interesting brochure on Dun Ailinne, your splendid action plan 2008-2009 and the very useful town map produced by yourselves which proved most helpful on the day of adjudication.

Your 15 members have been extremely energetic and effective. Your action plan is a model of precise, attainable objectives as well as being a worthwhile record of your achievements over the past 12 months. Congratulations on the installation of the fine Dun Ailinne, a significant and successful presentation of a very historic site to a far wider audience. Its ongoing presentation needs a little more attention we suggest. Please remove all commercial signs from the foreground together with the sycamore tree as each currently intrude into the view of it when coming from town. One sign is in itself unsightly. It is important that the line of sight to the monument be not restricted. Use instead low level, ground covering shrubbery to the foreground. The wild flowers behind it are ideal. Perhaps one of the residents in the immediate area would undertake to brush the pebbles off the monument plinth itself from time to time. On the day of adjudication an upturned wheelbarrow and other building material, not in current use, was dumped on the monument.

Congratulations also on the successful installation of the window boxes and the automatic watering system installation. It would be beneficial if there was a variety in the window box presentation both as to colour and flower types. The fine traditional lamp standards which grace the bridge are well set off by the hanging baskets. The fine robust black bollards are a worthwhile addition. The luminous, plastic, coloured strips are unfortunate. Your plan for lowering the somewhat forbidding wall around the college has considerable merit and you are wished success securing the necessary planning permission. A great deal of streetscape on the Dublin hill has in fact been rebuilt from Centra to the Town Hall and we understand the Bank of Ireland as well. All these premises are currently very well presented and a distinctive addition to the streetscape.

### **The Built Environment:**

It was a joy to see the Berney's Saddler's Shop, surly synonymous with Kilcullen together with his famous white horse still to the good. The plastic intruding sign does not add to their presentation. The Irish Bridle Boutique caught the eye while the Mill Race Development was most impressive. Reidy, Strafford Solicitors and O'Connell Insurance are both imposing buildings. The Community Centre and GAA Club Centre are worthwhile facilities. Sadly there was some weed at the base of this building, one lamp standard was quite rusty. The Hideout looked very well with its wooden planters while the wall of the private car park between it and the church would benefit from painting soon. The Leinster Mart, an extensive premises would benefit from additional screening to the foreground. The Dental Centre was well presented while work was in progress at the impressive premises of Pat Dunlea.

### **Landscaping:**

The splendid Dun Ailinne takes pride of place. We welcome the arrival of Sli Na Slainte. The Cross and Passion College Playground was well presented although the goal posts do need attention. The 1960's national school featured well presented grounds. The monument to Bishop Peter Rougan is being well maintained in the housing estate. The all weather pitch, together with the pitch and putt course were very well laid out while the Community Centre avenue featured very pleasant and suitable planting over the Pinkeen Stream. The Grotto in the Catholic Church grounds caught the eye as did the mature trees on the Carlow Road. The layout and amenity areas at Riverside Manor were very well presented while the new Abbey Cemetery has been maintained to a very acceptable standard. The splendid window boxes collectively make a significant contribution to the over all agreeable vista that is present day Kilcullen.

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

We note that you are still planning the audit of wildlife and bird life in the area. Certainly the report by Mary Tubridy on biodiversity will be of assistance. It may be useful also to seek the services of a local enthusiast, perhaps a member of BirdWatch Ireland who might be willing to draft a suitable programme for you. Armed with this, approaching the school management may have positive results. It is known that many school managers take that view that an awareness and appreciation of nature - particular birds and animals - is an important and beneficial element, in the broader sense, to an individual's education.

### **Litter Control:**

We were disappointed to note on our arrival along the Naas Road the extent of litter on view. Fortunately that appeared to be the only location where litter was a problem. We welcomed the very fine and colourful sign on the old Carlow Road 'Keep Kilcullen Tidy'. The lower board of this sign requires attention or perhaps replacement. Litter bins of a suitable design and size were noted in many places throughout the centre. Your success after such positive action with Kildare County Council merits particular applause and the enhanced street cleaning, litter removal and weed removal is yielding rich dividends for you and your fellow campaigning towns. The fine spring major clean-up as part of the National Spring Clean exercise has now become a significant date in the calendar of many centres. As an awareness raising exercise it is proving most successful.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your on going efforts promoting the concept of waste minimisation in the local community magazine is applauded. It is good to note the extent of activity centred in the schools as they seek to acquire Green Flag Status. Congratulations to the secondary school on achieving second place in the National Power Of One Competition. All of these efforts collectively will be beneficial in raising awareness of the need and indeed obligation on us all to reduce waste as much as possible, to reuse items where feasible and recycle as much as we can with a view to lowering the amount of waste being carted to land fill sights.

### **Tidiness:**

Many aspects intrude for good or ill in this tidiness section. We welcomed the short-term treatment of the abandoned house for sale, painting in each window. The wall area behind the Hideout, marked private property, is material below par in its presentation. The walls would benefit from being painted before next year's competition. There is a further abandoned house opposite the Harness shop on Dublin Hill. Planning permission is being sought, but in the interim its curtilage and garden generally should be maintained to a higher standard. The removal of weeds by the County Council outdoor staff along the road is a major breakthrough.

### **Residential Areas:**

The fine development at Riverside Manor is an example of good design with a splendid location. The layout of the buildings and the extensive communal grassed areas being well maintained were a joy to experience. The

flowerbeds outside the front facing wall of the housing development at Lacirel Wood have not been used for planting as intended. At the moment these are filled with disfiguring rough grass only. The Eskerlea is a fine estate that is well presented. Cnoc Na Greina is well set out but there is a surprising amount of weeds outside the iron railings on the R413. Nicholastown Crescent road is well swept, grass is cut but a somewhat better finish would be achieved by using a lawn mower rather than the strimmer.

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

The Castlemartin Road featured fine hedgerows and mature trees. However the surface is not without blemish. There is a broken directional sign near Castlemartin Estate Gates; both it and the pole need replacing. The Carlow Road is very well swept and was ideal. We welcomed the small black street signs for the Liffey Walk, St. Bridget's Well etc which are a positive element of street furniture. On the roads the speed limit sign were mostly visible, free of encroaching vegetation but a number would benefit from being washed.

#### **General Impression:**

A well taught out programme successfully addressing the issues and recognising when it is appropriate to tackle other agencies to achieve other objectives. Your success with the County Council campaign augers well for the future progress as does the success of the school in achieving Green Flag Status and their win in the Power Of One Competition.

All associated with this year's entry are thanked sincerely for their efforts, applauded for their success and wished well for 2009.