

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildavin** Ref: **1147**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **235**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	36	37
The Built Environment	50	30	32
Landscaping	50	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17	18
Litter Control	50	32	33
Waste Minimisation	20	5	7
Tidiness	30	19	20
Residential Areas	40	25	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	224	235

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the well put together concise application and supplementary material including map of Kildavin village. This was the adjudicator's first time to visit this very picturesque village and one which hopefully I intend to return to walk a stretch of the South Leinster way. It is noted that you re-entered the competition after a number of years and since then the revamped Committee has made great strides to get all the local community involved. The plan of work outlined in your application is both practical and achievable and takes into account the base that you are starting from and the resources that are available to you. The Committee of 10 is well structured and the relationships that you have formed with agencies such as Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd, Carlow Tourism, FAS and Carlow County Council will pay dividends in the years ahead. Now that the Celtic Tiger has vanished and the mantra of Cash Rich and Time Poor gone with it, its more than likely that communities such as yours will see an upsurge in volunteerism and this of course can only be a good thing. The bond developed between you as a committee and the local school is also welcomed and this will also be to your advantage to have children engaged in contributing to local community activities. The manner in which you have put together this application suggests that Kildavin is looking to achieve developmental growth as a village first and foremost with the added objective of gaining ground in the TidyTowns Competition.

The Built Environment:

The work undertaken in the last year alone reflects the urgency of the local community to address infrastructural imperfections that the village may have and also to highlight to best advantage its many fine buildings. The transformation of Spellman Hall which was called after Cardinal Spellman I presume, is a good example of how some basic remedial work can affect change. It was also noteworthy that you were able to acquire funding for this project as it might have proved a very onerous task in today's climate. The village is well-known for its stone walls and the most of these have been presented and maintained to a very

satisfactory standard.

The fine GAA grounds home to the Club of Kildavin and its neighbours Clonegal was in very good condition. It is important that try to have a footpath from the grounds into the village for safety of children particularly, you are wished well with you efforts to have this done as soon as possible. The adjudicator was impressed by quality of a number of built environment features in the village, Conway's is a well kept hostelry with a very appealing cream and black painting arrangement. Both the Church of Ireland at the main street junction and the RC Church on the elevated side of the village were both extremely well presented and credit is due to the personnel that are enthused with the responsibility for their up keep. The local National School was also in very good condition and some basic maintenance work was being carried out on adjudication day. The restored pump and stone work at the 98 commemoration area was also admired for its design and quality. The real plus factor for the village is the very good condition of internal roads and footpaths as it gives the place a very tidy look. Your plans for the Ball Alley will be commented on in another section of this report.

Landscaping:

The existing landscaping arrangements in the village and its surrounds were very effective with the black containers of annuals enhancing the excellent stone walls. The adjudicator has noted from your application that you plan to have all landscaping arrangements maintained in keeping with the natural attractiveness of the village. I would suggest, if you have not done it already, that that you either get in touch with the section responsible for village/town landscaping in Carlow County Council and seek direction on what the long term landscaping needs of the village should be. It also probable that you have people with landscape design or horticulture expertise within the community that may be willing to give you advice as well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is a category that often seems to cause difficulties for some TidyTowns entrants, but this should not be the case as every village or town has many natural habitats at their disposal. The key is to be able to exploit and maximise such habitats to the best advantage taking into account the criteria for Wildlife Conservation best practice. Kildavin has plenty to offer in this category and the committee has taken the right approach in seeking professional advice for the Heritage Dept of Carlow County Council as well as taking advantage of local expertise available to you to help manage the physical development of the planned wildlife area. The other major components that you should consider are Wildlife Species survey of the area, a Biodiversity management programme and a Public Information Panel located in a focal point of the Village. It was also good to note that you have been approved for funding under the Local Agenda 21 sustainable development programme. The process of application was probably a bit unwieldy but it is good that it has been approved as these type of initiatives may well be threatened in the immediate future.

Litter Control:

The message of Anti Litter in the county of Carlow is particularly strong as witnessed by the various TidyTowns applications and the Anti Litter League adds that extra dimension to the overall programme. Communities have been very proactive in making sure that this anti litter message is being communicated effectively to the local population and the response has been very encouraging as the standard of litter control in the County has been very good. Kildavin has put in place some very practical measures locally as well as participating in the Carlow Anti Litter League. Encouraging locals to look after their own "doorstep" is the key to keeping your village as tidy as it is at present.

Waste Minimisation:

There has been good progress in this category within the last year. The re-structured committee has been instrumental in devising a number of simple initiatives that may help you gain additional marks over the coming years and more importantly contribute to the national need for waste minimisation and reduction. One has to bear in mind that recycling and litter control alone are not what waste minimisation is about. The Committee has taken on board the questions posed in last year's report and responded accordingly by organising seminars on communal composting and waste minimisation in the home. It has been noted that you have linked up the Environmental Section of Carlow County Council to produce a five year plan. When this is completed it should be presented to the local community at a public meeting so as everyone will have the opportunity to make comment on it. Well done on your positive work done under this category during the last year.

Tidiness:

The village of Kildavin is quite small so it is comparatively easier to manage than larger centres that said nothing will be achieved if you don't have co-operation from the locals. The residents of Kildavin are making a good effort to showcase their village in the best possible fashion as it was very tidy on adjudication day. You as a Committee are helping to facilitate this by providing the guidance and highlighting areas of concern that have to be improved upon. All the basics under this category ticked the boxes and with the exception of a few unsightly things like an old rusty galvanised barn on the way in from Clonegal the standard was otherwise very

good.

Residential Areas:

The terrace of established low roofed houses on the Myshall Road was very well presented with nice colour contrasts. Crosgrove Estate was in good condition with some very well maintained homesteads and gardens but the large green area seems to be used as football pitch judging by the goal post in the middle. It would be worth considering putting a few additional planting arrangements at the perimeter to take away the bare look and to complement the nice arrangement at the entrance to the estate. Glasheen Estate was in good condition and new development on the Mysahll exit will mature in time. It is noted that you have residents association representations on your committee proper which is a positive development as they will be part of any decision making that will affect their individual areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrances into the village were very good with verges maintained well, signage visible and clean and road surfaces quite good.

The entrance in from neighbouring Clonegal was quite good with the basics very much in order. The entrance in off the N 80 from the Wexford Rosslare end was very pleasing on the eye with mature trees and a striking stone wall creating good first impressions for any visitor.

General Impression:

Well done to the community of Kildavin for the efforts you are making to promote your lovely village. The Tidy Towns committee is to be complimented on the work to date and in time you will be catching up on your neighbours up the road. You are wished well in the competition in the years ahead.