Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Kildysart**	Ref:	**71**
County:	**Clare**	Mark:	**258**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**01/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	**400**	**258**

Overall Development Approach:

We are pleased to welcome Kildysart to the Tidy Towns Competition for 2009. Thank you for submitting the entry form and helpful map of the village.

It is encouraging to note that Kildysart Tidy Towns Committee has managed to retain an active committee of 20 members, holding monthly meetings and undertaking Tidy Towns projects between March and September. This level of commitment is commendable and the fruits of your hard work were clearly visible during our visit, well done. The fact that the Community College has a staff member on the Tidy Towns Committee is a great way to ensure that the younger members of the community learn to take pride in their environment and we would certainly encourage them.

We noted that your entry did not included the 3 Year Plan recommended in last year's report. We would strongly reinforce the recommendation as it would help you to identify and focus on key areas where improvements could be made; set realistic timeframes for work to be undertaken and hopefully, gain valuable additional marks within the Tidy Towns Competition.

Your hard work and commitment have evidently encouraged others to get involved and it is good to know that Clare County Council, local businesses and the wider community have been supporting your endeavours so keep up the good work.

The use of Public Meetings and Parish Newsletters to involve the local community are very appropriate ways to spread the message. You might also consider the use of a tidy towns website for the village.

The Built Environment:

Kildysart is a pretty village with a superb location on the banks of the Shannon Estuary. The Square was beautifully presented with the monument, lovely stone elevations, good paving, floral displays and seating. Public buildings which impressed during our visit included the Church with its neatly maintained grounds, St John Bosco Community College with good landscaping, picnic tables and well cut grass (but the flagpoles did need to be cleaned), the Library attached to the college, the Post Office, Fergus Credit Union, the Garda Station and Health Centre with attractive hanging baskets.

Commercial businesses were generally very well presented and those which caught the eye on the day included Leonard's Daybreak (we were particularly impressed by the cleanliness of the side access at the premises), J O'Dea, P MacMahon Chemist, Michael O'Grady Victuallers, AIB Bank, Centra and Doohan's.

Kildysart has a wonderful selection of watering holes for thirsty visitors including Cahill's Shannon View, the Crow's Nest, The Bianconi and Mitchell's Corner Bar.

In fact, the businesses and shopfronts were generally of a very high standard of presentation with excellent hanging baskets and containers at most business premises – congratulations to everyone involved.

It was good to note that some work has been done to resolve derelict sites and we wish you success in your negotiations with the owner of the building at Lachnashanagh.

The concept of E-Town development would be a very appropriate and positive project for Kildysart and we certainly hope that the planning stage will be concluded very soon.

Landscaping:

As we strolled through Kildysart we admired many fine displays including the numerous angled stone flowerbeds, neatly cut grassed areas and well protected young trees on the approaches to the village. The eyecatching displays of hanging baskets, planted containers paving and bench seating at the Square were impressive (the view would be even further enhanced if overhead wiring in the area could be placed underground). We noticed the new hedging plants which had been planted between the trees near the Community College – they should look very impressive as they mature

A shrubbery at the junction between the Labasheeda approach and Kines Road was in need of attention – near the Clár National Development Plan sign.

The Quay was impressive with lovely paving leading to the fine stone picnic tables and benches in the grassed area, neat shrubberies and chain link fencing (a few weeds near the fencing needed to be removed). The anchor displayed in the circular shrubbery was evocative.

Floral displays at business premises and homes throughout the village were superb and really added to the overall vista, congratulations to everyone who took the time and trouble to present such a pleasing picture.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Places of Interest display panel at the Square was very informative about the wildlife, biodiversity, woodlands and local attractions of Kildysart. Its prominent location should ensure that it is appreciated by all, well done. The display panel re Shore Angling at the Quay was also a very useful source of information.

Another project which might be worth considering, if you have not already done so, would be to organise a survey of any existing habitats and wildlife in the area and the results could then be used to decide what plants and facilities need to be provided. A wildlife enthusiast could be asked to provide guidance on this and perhaps the local schools could get involved.

While most of the grass at St John Bosco Community College had been cut, we noticed that some areas in the grounds had been left natural – this should help wildlife in the area to flourish.

Litter Control:

Very little litter was visible during our time in Kildysart but there were some items spotted in the GAA grounds and on the roadside near St John Bosco Community College. The Parish Clean up, daily FÁS litter collections and litter monitoring by local businesses have obviously been fairly effective. The involvement of the local primary school in litter control is very worthwhile as it will encourage the children to take pride in their

environment.

Waste Minimisation:

The endeavours of the local National School in litter control and composting, and the ongoing recycling of newspapers, batteries and tyres are very encouraging projects, congratulations to all involved.

We noted your plans to install a Composter at the Quay but we would offer a word of caution. If the intention is to organise collective community composting, this would be illegal without a licence so it would be important to consult the County Council for guidance. What is normally recommended is composting by individual households.

While the bins at the Recycling Bank were clean and tidy, it is good that you plan to reorganise the area when work on the Community Centre is finished. Don't forget to erect some appropriate signage to identify the area and provide guidelines for usage.

Tidiness:

Overall Kildysart was relatively tidy during our visit and it was good to see the warning sign re refuse at the Quay and the safety buoy nearby (often these life-saving pieces of equipment go missing so well done to everyone). We were pleased to note that the damaged boundary wall at the Shannon Development Enterprise Centre had received attention but a section of capping was still missing and a fresh coat of paint would be recommended. While the GAA grounds were generally in good condition, there was some damage to metal fencing in the grounds.

The work undertaken regarding signage and the new electricity poles is commendable, well done.

While grass verges in most locations were well cut and tidy, the verge near the GAA grounds and the Kildysart sign was a bit untidy – perhaps some colourful flowerbeds could be installed to enhance the area.

Residential Areas:

Kildysart is blessed with a lovely mix of residential properties, both old and new, and it was evident that considerable care and attention had been lavished on the various homes by their residents.

The children's playground near the Community College was an excellent amenity and was getting plenty of use by its young clients, the sponsored shrubbery and name bricks were excellent projects. There were some lovely homes with pretty gardens across the road from the playground.

A nice small development (without a nameplate) at the start of the Kilrush Road was appealing.
The new houses at the Quay are attractive additions to the housing stock of the village. Among the more mature properties that caught the eye was a red and white painted stone house opposite the Parish Office.

Cluain Chormaic was a beautiful development with an excellent bilingual stone plaque commemorating its official opening. The mix of single and two storey houses, with partial stone fronts, was very attractive. The well built stone boundary wall, lovely green area and sapling trees completed the scene. Dún Gleanna was another nice development with fine stone walls and a lovely mature tree at the entrance.

Well done to all on the high standards achieved in the presentation of both older and new homes in Kildysart.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to the village were in fairly good condition but there were some potholes on the Kines Road. It was good to note that some resurfacing had taken place on the Ennis Road. Signage throughout the village was generally in good condition and visible, however, grass at the base of the Kildysart/Fisherman's Haven sign on the Labasheeda Road was in need of trimming. The Welcome to our Village Drive Slowly sign was an appropriate warning.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to stroll through Kildysart, admiring the views of the Shannon Estuary and the excellent commercial and residential premises with their colourful floral presentations. While there are some areas for improvement, Kildysart has certainly be moving in the right direction and has great potential for further advancement under the Tidy Towns umbrella. Do try to take on board the recommendation regarding a 3

Year Plan.

We wish you a long and successful association with the Tidy Towns Competition and we look forward to appreciating your endeavours, including the completed Community Centre project, on a future visit.

By the way, we spotted a sign congratulating the Kildysart U-10s Champions (13 June 2009) and would also like to add our best wishes to the team, well done lads.