

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILKEE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	215

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for comprehensive report submitted together with completed entry form. It is obvious from details contained that you have a good and beneficial working relationship with the Local Authorities. Firstly it is acknowledged that your task and challenge are not the norm within Tidy Towns activity - the amount of holiday accommodation and the seasonal implications of same make your challenge all the more daunting. The town is also experiencing immense development with buildings being constructed on almost every approach road and intensive building within the towns immediate environment. Consequently, it is not to be expected that a voluntary Tidy Towns Committee can cope on its own with the demands that such developments present. Your approach in dealing with different agencies is commendable.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category offering valuable marks for the promotion of wildlife. You are well poised to gain from this category because of your strategic location and the abundance of wildlife in and around Kilkee. The promotion of Bird Watching Holidays in 1995 illustrates the value of wildlife to the area. You should pursue this development. You should consider erecting an illustrated display map at the car park near the Water Sports Centre that would help visitors identify bird and fish life.

LANDSCAPING

You have done well in maintaining the many landscaped areas throughout the town. In developing grassed areas, only do so if you are satisfied that they can be maintained to a high standard. The trees at the square will further improve with the passing of time. The overall display of hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs add significantly to improving colour throughout. You still have a problem on the Kilrush approach with too much high grass and unattended open spaces. The entrance to the two Caravan Parks off the West End is quite untidy. All caravan parks visited on adjudication day were very well presented, with simple landscaping and good litter control. The difficulty of tree planting in coastal areas is acknowledged but if you choose sheltered areas and maintain well in the early stages you will have good success. The display of flowers and shrubs outside the National School improves the appearance of this street.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

You have done well in this category. Firstly, the large period buildings overlooking the bay are well presented and maintained. The many excellent shopfronts in O'Connell Street and O'Curry Street continue to give atmosphere to the town. You should continue to encourage owners of premises with plastic fronts and ultra modern materials to present their premises in sympathy with the more traditional facades of Kilkee. Some public buildings need improvement; the Library and The Station could be presented to a higher standard. The enormous amount of Holiday Accommodation is now dominant throughout the town. Many of these are unfinished and some have poor landscaping. The Atlantic Hotel facade is deteriorating and the area fronting the hotel is worthy of improved presentation. In general new houses are colourful and well presented. The demand for periodic painting is ongoing, with all premises but this also presents you with an opportunity to keep the town bright and colourful. The community hall, which is not identified is poor in presentation and not helped by uninteresting prefabs.

LITTER CONTROL

It is obvious that you are giving priority to this section. The streets were virtually litter free on adjudication day. Litter was being collected and streets were being swept in an organised way - this is commendable and the effects are evident. Litter bins seem adequate in numbers and are well positioned around the town.

TIDINESS

In general the town looked tidy, but the many uncared for open spaces, overgrowing fenced in sites and unfinished developments project an air of untidiness in many areas. These have been alluded to in previous reports. Litter control and tidiness are different and need separate attention. The area at the end of the cul-de-sac beside the Fire Station is particularly poor and needs a clean up. The recycling depot mentioned in the development sites should at least be free of high overgrowth.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As mentioned earlier the standard of houses is high throughout. It is good to observe that many commercial buildings include living accommodation overhead and this "policy" should be encouraged. The excellent houses, many with very good landscaped gardens on almost all approach roads help to set the scene for an attractive town. There are a few unfinished houses in the estate near the Atlantic Hotel. Some of the older estates would benefit from fresh painting, together with boundary walls i.e. on the Doonbeg approach.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

This new section offers marks for appearance of side and back entrances. You have problems under this section as there are many side entrances very visible that are in need of improved presentation. The road surface at Geraldine Place is poor, and also the road surface near the Market Square. Some unfinished buildings are giving views of side and back areas that do not complement the rest of the town. However, the area at the roundabout and the many buildings visible from here are of a high standard and this area also seems to have good traffic control. There are several side entrances on the approach roads that need attention. Even painting farm gates and keeping high grass away from gate pillars will help you in this section.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilkee can be well pleased with its performance. You have a very large area to attend to and you are not always in contact with owners and holiday residents which is acknowledged. You still need to pay more attention to the principal approach roads as they set the scene for the rest of the town. Your strong points are still to be found in the towns core area where some of the presentations are excellent.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/96)

There are still some unpleasing spots in Kilkee; among those noticed on second adjudication day were the bleak approach from Kilrush, unkept frontages and sites on this road, the circular roads, and the Carrigaholt road. Several untidy entrances and frontages could be cleaned up in an hour's work - not a great effort is required from private individuals. It is to be hoped that the new Waterworld premises now under construction will be of a scale appropriate to the town and not like the Atlantic Hotel. The area across the road from this construction site needs upgrading. Litter control was good. As pointed out by the first adjudicator, the town centre and the esplanades with their lodges, old and new, continue to be most attractive. Since the second adjudicator was last in Kilkee an unsightly amusement arcade at the seafront roundabout has been replaced by a handsome new amusements building: holiday developments of this kind are, visually speaking, very much in the indigenous spirit of Kilkee. In spite of adverse comments which have to be made in the interests of improvements, it was a real pleasure seeing Kilkee again.