

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLALOE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	198

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The town has improved since 1995 and its status of a heritage town is well deserved. The notes and map accompanying the entry form were again useful to the adjudicator. The Community Council obviously has the support of the community. The Killaloe Environmentally Aware week is a worthwhile project, as indeed is the schools competitions which form part of the programme. From 1997, all Tidy Towns Committees will be required to prepare and submit a development plan covering a 3 - 5 year period and a work programme for each year of the plan, with set objectives and targets. The plan is seen as a guide to the Tidy Towns activities in each centre and will need liaison and linkages with Local Authorities, FAS, Regional Tourism Organisations and other statutory and public bodies that have an input in the Tidy Towns effort. The plan itself, or a summary of it, can be circulated or publicised through local media to create greater public awareness and community involvement.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river is the principal natural resource, apart from the lake and the surrounding hills and, from a wildlife point of view, has great potential. Encouraging local clubs to stock the river with Mallard; protecting other wildlife habitats such as woodlands, hedgerows, grass verges along approach roads; designating areas as wildlife sanctuaries and developing nature trails and river walks are some ways of enhancing the wildlife value of the local environment. Nature conservation should be an integral part of your Tidy Towns plan and development programme.

LANDSCAPING

The tree planting programme which was initiated last year is being maintained. The maintenance of the Canal bank, from the Grotto on the Scarriff road to the Heritage Centre is very good, as are the stone walls in this area and the development along the link road by the pitch and putt course. The area along the Canal on the other side of the Shannon bridge is much improved. Work has begun on the area approaching the entrance to Colaiste Phobal Naomh Aine and this will greatly improve this approach to the town. A better standard of maintenance and landscaping should be encouraged in housing estates.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The maintenance of public and commercial premises throughout the town is, by and large, good. Shopfronts, especially along Main Street and the Parade, have improved and are most attractive. The Oratory and St. Flannans Cathedral are important elements of the towns heritage status; the Catholic Church and St. Moluas oratory are interesting and attractive buildings. The solution to the problem of the derelict buildings opposite the Cathedral is to be commended. The schools, the Industrial Unit and Enterprise Centre, the Garda Station, the GAA grounds, offices such as O Donovans Insurances, the Killaloe Holiday Village and the most attractive new Hotel on the Scarriff road are other examples of well maintained and presented buildings which were noted. The new building in progress beside the footbridge was noted also.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control has improved somewhat and the Schools programme is having an effect. The problem in some of the housing estates could be solved with the provision of additional litter bins and creating a greater general awareness in these areas - could the provision of skips during the awareness week in March be extended?

TIDINESS

Apart from the problems mentioned under litter control, the town is generally neat and tidy especially around the canal bank, the Main Street and around the Catholic Church/the Green/Chapel Street area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses on the two main approach roads and throughout the town are mostly making a very positive contribution to the overall appearance of the town. The housing estates, where most householders are making an effort, should have more encouragement and help in maintaining their areas, especially with the maintenance of open spaces.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Scarriff is again the more impressive - from the amenity development at Tinnerana, past the entrance to the former Ballyvalley Hotel, the new Kincora Hotel, some very attractive houses and the entrance to Kinvara Lodge and the Petrol Stations and to the Grotto overlooking the Canal on the other major approach, from Limerick, there are again some attractive houses, with one under construction. The area around the Maxol Service Station could be better maintained. Work in progress on the triangle in front of the community school and stone walls along the field in front to the Rectory and into the Parade were noted. Signposting and signage generally is good throughout.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that Killaloe is becoming more attractive for the many thousands of visitors that come to the town each year. The waterfront and the areas along the River and Canal are the most popular areas but the town as a whole is being improved. This will attract visitors to other areas around the town - up Main Street, to the Green and towards the pitch and putt course etc. Keep up the good work.