

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILRUSH**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>214</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your comprehensive illustrated submission is a classic and in keeping with similar ones received in recent years. You are to be complimented on taking such a methodical attitude towards developments. Your chosen liaison with Kilrush U.D.C. and other agencies is commendable. The town has undergone significant developments, much related to welcome urban renewal in recent years. No doubt your status as a heritage town has given added focus to the glory days of the 19th century activity. Your challenge now is to pursue a programme that will give recognition to the various facets of development.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your strategic location beside the sea affords you an opportunity not shared by other centres to promote an increased appreciation for wildlife. This section is now an integral part of the competition with valuable marks allotted for same. As a project perhaps students of the various schools could engage in a project that would list and popularise the wildlife of the area. As you are engaged in a good deal of planting and developing of shrubbery, consider species that will give winter feeding to wildbirds.

### LANDSCAPING

You have scored well in this section and the developments of previous years continue to further enhance the town. In particular the numerous flower bed developments which, it is acknowledged, require a good deal of maintenance. There seems to be an accepted policy for the development of floral displays at various junctions throughout the town. Tree planting in and around the town is excellent. The suggestion made two years ago to plant trees on Frances Street is now repeated. However, the subsequent report suggesting a row of trees in the centre is praiseworthy and would still preserve the existing parking spaces. Long-term, you should plan for putting E.S.B. and Telecom cables underground - especially in Frances Street.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is heartening to witness such a continued development of traditional shopfronts in the principal streets. Encourage developers to include the upper storeys in their planning and don't neglect the use of timber windows. The many period houses maintained to such a high standard provide a valuable link with an easier era. Public buildings were well presented again this year and many excel with colourful flower displays and good signage. The town hall, which is the focal point in the town will soon need to be freshly painted if it is to give leadership to the rest of the town. You should also fly the flags on the town hall each day during the busy tourist season. The exhibition is interesting and well laid out.

### LITTER CONTROL

Your policy of deploying students under the Social Employment Scheme has proved effective. Litter control is really excellent. Every street in the town was inspected and virtually no litter was in evidence. Your litter survey which was submitted with your entry form illustrates the constant need for litter control and street cleaning. Well done.

### TIDINESS

It should be pointed out that tidiness and litter control are not similar. Because of the many uncared for small open spaces, derelict buildings and pending building sites, a degree of untidiness is evident in some areas around the town. A number of car parks need improved weed control. Because of your adjacency to the sea, much of your signage is in need of painting because of rust. The twinning entry sign on the Ennis approach is one such sign.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of housing throughout is good and new infill developments will further enhance the towns appearance. In particular, the houses on almost all approach roads are very well presented, many with splendid gardens, especially the large house on the Kilkee approach. Some boundary walls in the estates would benefit from painting.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

July 11th was Circus Day in Kilrush but there was certainly no clowning on the Kilkee approach where a hive of activity was tackling a large area of grass cutting and collection together with litter control and collection by students. You have spent many long hours working on all approach roads and the fruits of your labours are evident. The many stone walls built, augmented with appropriate tree planting and development of so many flower areas, all help to present a colourful and welcoming image for Kilrush. The approach from Cappa is not up to the standard of the two principal approaches and needs to be worked on. The emphasis now being laid on side and back areas will demand more vigilance and the encouragement from committees to impress upon traders and developers the need to give greater attention to such areas. Like many other centres you have problems with rusty corrugated roofs.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilrush is a developing vibrant market town in appearance with a rich heritage still well illustrated and promoted. The core area of the town is particularly rich in architecture and attractively endowed with a coastal backdrop. Your greatest single problem, like all other busy developing towns is the control of traffic - a pity you did not preserve the town hall's immediate environs by not allowing any cars. Well done once again on a great performance and keep up the good work.