

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KELLS-KILKENNY**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	33
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>196</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is very good to read on the application form of the support given by local businesses and individuals, and encouraging to note the co-operation of the official bodies. The Fás scheme must prove immensely valuable. (Presumably you sent for a replacement of the brochure with the missing pages.) Your map has been particularly useful. Your task is especially difficult because of the decline of the village many years ago and the resulting vestiges of neglect, but the improvements are very noticeable indeed, and your plans for the future are imaginative and impressive.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A rather higher mark is being given here than in most other centres where initiatives have not yet been taken under this new heading - due to the work which you have described.

### LANDSCAPING

Flowerbeds were very favourably noted. Flowers in pots or tubs need constant attention, and not all were at their best due to the very hot and dry weather at the time of adjudication; small pots do not make much impact, except where clustered.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Priory with its outriding turrets, the two Churches, the Mill, and some picturesque dwellings constitute the "architecture" of Kells - it is an extraordinary and impressive range. All are well maintained according to their individual requirements. The traditional Roman Catholic village church has great dignity and charm and should never be replaced. Some dereliction was all too obvious - particularly a building mid-way between the two sections of the village which is in a very conspicuous position; a derelict building on the Dunamaggin Road was sensitively treated. The restoration of the Mill, a major project, is eagerly anticipated, it could lead to a change in the economy and status of the village. The Post Office was photographed, and will be entered in the national competition. The school and its grounds were smart.

### LITTER CONTROL

There was very little disposable litter in Kells on adjudication day - congratulations.

### TIDINESS

There are several rusty iron gates throughout the village and environs. Weeds, once poisoned (such as in the grounds of the Church of Ireland) should be removed, as dead weeds are just as unsightly as growing ones. In spite of excellent floral decorations, the centre of the village has a down-at-heel look, unco-ordinated signage, wires, poles etc. contribute. Post-and-wire fencing in the area opposite Delaney's, and the unrepaired stone walls in the same location, as well as the dereliction referred to above, also contribute. Plastic bunting does nothing to enhance buildings such as the Community Hall

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older street houses are generally well maintained. Many delightful window boxes were seen. There are some substantial suburban houses with fine gardens, and some excellent stone boundary walls - the most prominent fronts a house on the Kilkenny Road. A cottage with excellent thatching and a wonderful display of rambler roses was very favourably noted, and a limestone cottage-orne.

### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are fairly adequate. Verges of approach roads are reasonably trim. There are many unsightly "corners" and entrances here and there. However, too severe a grooming would be out of keeping and would remove some of the character of the village. The bridge is a remarkable feature. The car park at the Priory was well presented on adjudication day. Where stone walls have been repaired or rebuilt, the effect is splendid, the reinstatement of old walls throughout Kells is probably a priority with the Tidy Towns Group, but if not should be made one. The planting of creepers to conceal broken walls can only be seen as a short-term solution. There is an unattractive open site on the Kilmoganny Road.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

A fascinating ancient township with some decay of more recent times, gradually being rehabilitated in a tasteful and imaginative manner.