

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILMACOW**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	20
Litter Control	40	34
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>167</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is good to read on the application form of the support given both in cash and in kind by the local community. You do not mention assistance from official local and national organisations apart from the County Council, or participation in the FÁS youth employment scheme which has proved most helpful in other towns and villages. Your map is very well laid out, but you have not marked on it which of the sites are for proposed improvement, which are ongoing, and which have been completed, and this is not always clear from inspection of the sites themselves.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A nominal figure is being given under this heading in its first year, to committees which have not had the time to consider initiatives.

### LANDSCAPING

Landscaping developments are not prominent in Kilmacow, though the planting of shrubs and bedding plants was favourably noted in some places. Planting around the pump at the northern end of the village was particularly favourably noted.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church is well maintained in its commanding position, and the school was also well presented on adjudication day. Business premises in the Upper Village were well looked after, though the Avonmore premises did little in visual terms to contribute to the appearance of its surroundings. O'Neill's Garage and Supermarket were spic and span. Derelict sites are so conspicuous, it is hard to understand how the Village Renewal Scheme has been completed, as stated in the questionnaire, and the map shows "Restoration of old buildings" and "Renovation of derelict sites" in the Lower Village.

### LITTER CONTROL

There was very little disposable litter in Kilmacow on adjudication day, except in the neighbourhood of the Sports Complex.

### TIDINESS

Poisoned weeds should be removed, as they are just as unsightly as growing ones. Last year's adjudicator referred to good weed control, but it did not seem to be as effective this year. Unkempt verges, as mentioned elsewhere, also contribute unduly to an overall untidy look.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the older street houses, St. Senan's was especially noteworthy, looked extremely well indeed, several had obviously been painted recently, and many had attractive floral displays. Housing in the Narrabane North area was impressive, with a number of pleasant front gardens. Some attractive gardens were also seen in the housing estate between the Upper Village and Narrabane, but the public spaces were not well kept, this was also mentioned last year. A handsome gate-lodge was noticed in the Lower Village at a pretty entrance.

### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces and paving are average, as are approach roads, but verges to the south are generally unkempt. In the Lower Village, the old ball alley has become something of an eyesore, and an abandoned petrol pump might be advantageously removed. Repairs to stone walls at the bridge nearby

were favourably noted. There are several unsightly entrances both in the Upper and Lower Villages - and weedy fencing, such as immediately south of O'Neill's garage, these detract from neighbouring sites where successful efforts have been made to create a pleasant village environment. The car-park above the Church was weed-strewn on adjudication day.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village in an unusually picturesque setting, where improvements seem slow to take place in comparison with villages of similar size in the county, but where there is plenty of potential.