

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILFINANE**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	30
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>185</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your detailed response to the questionnaire you would appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. For next year's competition it is important to have formulated a detailed professional three or five year plan of action for your town in order to give yourselves a positive objective for resolving the problem areas within the community. Your committee of three would seem to be extremely small for a town of Kilfinane's size, perhaps you should recruit more members to help with your work.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

### LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was very high indeed on Adjudication Day. The colourful hanging baskets suspended from the posts all along Main Street looked magnificent. Even an empty site on this street had been adorned with two large tubs filled with flowers. However, the timber flower tubs along Main Street could be freshly painted. The green open space/garden opposite Scoil Poll had been freshly cut. The gravel-filled flower bed at the road junction of Vale View and the new school road should be attractive when in full bloom. The Sacred Heart garden in the centre of town looked marvellous with an extremely colourful and varied floral display. The grotto was neat and clean but looked a little bare in comparison.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial premises of the town looked reasonably well on Adjudication Day. The old Church of Ireland off the Ballyorgan road was quite overgrown. The library and the Tourist Information Office were both very fresh. The church, grounds with graveyard looked fine, although some weeds were noted to either side of the path and the railings should be painted. The church grounds opposite the school were well maintained. The gates to the U-shaped school could be painted. An outbuilding near the school needed a fresh coat of white-wash. The bare concrete block boundary wall should be plastered and painted, and the yard area was quite weedy. The grounds to the Education Centre were very lush and looked magnificent. The new school looked well, although the gates were a little rusty. Perhaps some tree planting would soften the bare look of the grounds. The garden to the rear of the convent looked splendid and was positively overflowing with colour. The tarmacadamed surface to the car park area outside the graveyard was uneven, while the concrete boundary wall to the graveyard should be replaced with a stone wall or hedge. The gates to the charming and peaceful old graveyard could be painted and the steps weeded. Main Street looked reasonably fresh, although shopkeepers should be discouraged from the habit of cluttering their windows with stickers. Projecting plastic signage and curved canopies should be replaced with more appropriate timber signs and traditional fabric awnings. There are some attractive traditional shopfronts such as Crowley's (which was very fresh), O'Shaughnessy's and Doherty's House (which would benefit from being restored to its former glory). P.D. Healy's looked quite charming with colourful flowers for sale outside. The AIB could be freshened before next year's competition, although its lovely timber window boxes with an abundance of colourful flowers including geraniums were greatly admired.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good, for the most part, on the day. However, some papers were noted outside the school and quite a lot more further along the road. The rest of the town appeared litter-free.

## TIDINESS

Two major problem areas in terms of tidiness, on Adjudication Day were weed control and neglected outbuildings. There were generally a lot of weeds along Main Street particularly, near the empty site at the lower end of the street. More weeds were apparent on the Kilmallock road closer to Main Street, to the kerbside of the school road and to the base of the retaining wall by the new school. The metal post and wire fence nearby should be replaced with more stone walling. The pebble-dashed boundary wall to the field leading down to Vale View was very grubby and more weeds were noted at the kerbside. The profusion of plastic projecting signs along the lower end of Main Street give a very cluttered untidy impression. The outbuildings at the junction of the street leading from the old graveyard up to Main Street should be freshly white-washed as they look very grubby. Side streets need to be maintained to as high a standard as Main Street, as they are an integral part of the overall circulation through the town.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was generally good. The houses at Vale View looked rather dull, one was brightly painted and contrasted sharply with the rest. Forest View housing estate on the Killmallock road was beautifully maintained. As was Mountain View estate with its attractive flowers in stone beds at the entrance. Woodview B&B was admired for its magnificent garden. Another beautiful garden flowing over a stone wall near the junction of the road to the "Rent an Irish Cottage scheme". The cottages themselves looked reasonably well maintained.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The overall impression given by the approach roads was a neat and ordered one. The verges on the Mitchelstown road were reasonably freshly cut. This road has a magnificent view over the stone wall into the valley, while trees march up the bank on the other side. The terrace of houses on this road were very fresh and some sported colourful hanging baskets. Road signage could have been presented to a higher standard. The speed limit signs at the junction of the school roads were very grubby and rusty. The speed limit sign going out the Tipperary road was very grubby also, both signs were faded coming back in. The road junction sign was virtually obscured by an overhanging tree, but the verges were reasonably well cut back. The Killmallock road sported a stone surround to a planted bed and a very fresh sign, its verges were also well cut back. The laneway to the Ballyhoura Education Centre at the side of the Ballyhoura Inn leaves a lot to be desired. There are a lot of outbuildings and gateways which need painting, untidy looking yard areas. Some attractive stone outbuildings further along were admired. Some of the boundary walls could be freshly whitewashed, and some weeding is necessary to the kerbside and around lamp poles. A laneway at the lower end of Main Street still contained old washing machines etc and looked quite unsightly. A very wide High Street looked very well neat and tidy.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Kilfinane is set amongst the magnificent scenery of the Ballyhoura Mountains. It looked well on the day but some problem areas such as weed control, back areas and dereliction were apparent. There was a lot of activity, particularly around the new stone walls.