

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILMALLOCK**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	30
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	19
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	193

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your detailed responses to the questionnaire you would appear to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. You would appear to have clear objectives in mind for the centre and outlying approaches to the town over the next few years.

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. Your proposal for a wild duck site in the new town park is an exciting one. The wild daisies on the Bruree road beyond the nameplate sign and yellow bog irises to a field on the right hand side on entering the town looked magnificent! The riverside area was very well maintained, although the plastic bags in the water at Abbey were unfortunate. The bog irises on the opposite bank were a delight, though!

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was very good. The industrial estate had some attractive planted beds at the entrance. The raised planted stone bed on the left hand side of the Bruree road, was also admired. The new trees behind the stone walls on both sides of the road to camouflage the industrial buildings on the Kilfinane road are a successful solution. The silver birches close to the Garda Station also looked well. The approach/car park area to the Abbey could be made more accessible and attractive. It currently appears as a bare concrete back yard area. The timber rail fence and bridge leading to the magnificent Abbey ruins themselves could be creosoted.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public and commercial buildings of Kilmallock looked well for the most part on Adjudication Day. Oifig an Phoist would benefit from a wash down, but it is a very attractive traditional Post Office sporting a large harp on its facade. There was work in progress at the church, which had scaffolding outside. The National School and Health Centre (on the Kilfinane road) were quite fresh, as was St. Peter's College with its magnificent grounds filled with poppies and lupins. The Fire Station looked well, with its neatly maintained grounds surrounded by a stone wall. Additional landscaping might improve the somewhat bare appearance. The bare concrete block boundary wall to the GAA grounds, and entrance area looked rather grim. The museum was very fresh with its timber window boxes and green windows and doors. The gable wall to the Animal Health Centre was very grubby. There were quite a few out of scale plastic signs, notably John's Foodmarket and Liam Collin's and the Golden Vale Bar and Shop Local. Mc. Auliffe's has too many plastic signs which give a very cluttered appearance to the facade, as do too the stickers in many shop windows. Curved plastic canopies should also be discouraged and replaced with traditional fabric awnings. The Thrift Shop badly needed painting. Charlie's bar looked very fresh and cheerful with its window boxes filled with petunias. The colourful hanging baskets of Kelly's Off License and lounge were also admired. Quish's bar was also very fresh in yellow. The plastered portion of the Oasis was very flaky. The boundary wall to Teagasc could also be painted. The most significant buildings of the town of Kilmallock are the fine mediaeval stone ones which should be cherished. The mediaeval stone mansion on Sarsfield Street needed to have its doors cleaned down.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was not good on the day. There were some papers on the bridge on the Bruree road and a lot of litter along the main streets of the town especially Sarsfield Street and Lord Edward Street. More papers were noted by Blossom Gate, and along Sheare's Avenue which was very littered, particularly at

the entrance area by the directional sign for the old town wall. Some more litter was apparent on the Charleville road.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category could also have been better on Adjudication Day. Dereliction to the main streets of Kilmallock is a problem. Some weeding is necessary to base of the kerbside at the library, to the Golden Vale Marts forecourt area and to the spaces in between kerb stones on Lord Edward Street. The untidy storage area beside a large shed with abandoned machinery etc beside Golden Vales Agri-Sales and Hardware looked quite unfortunate. As did the messy looking yard area by Forest Pine which should be obscured from public view. Paul and Vincent animal feeds yard looked quite bare with its concrete fence surround. The 94th Infantry Battalion could paint their sign and boundary wall. The chainlink fence should be removed and replaced with a hedge or stone wall. The gates opposite Quish's should be freshly painted. The standard of road surfaces to the main streets is poor and Limerick County Council should be approached with the view to resolving the problem. The old town wall sign/plaque at the bottom of Sheare's Avenue had been vandalised and the empty plastic pots at the bottom of the wall looked quite sad.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation of houses and gardens in and around the town was reasonably good on the day. Some boundary walls and houses on the Bruree road require freshening up. The gable wall to Sarsfield Street of a house on Sheare's Avenue badly needs painting, as do the tin-roofed cottages further along. The low timber rail fence to the terrace of houses needed painting also. The two houses in yellow and buff side by side opposite look very cheerful and were in the process of hanging baskets up outside. The litter bins to Sheare's Avenue were extremely grubby. An attractive garden on the Kilfinane road was admired, although the boundary walls to the houses opposite generally needed freshening up. Building work was in progress to some houses, try to ensure that the high standard of landscaping is maintained. The Riverview Estate was reasonably well maintained, but the green open space was quite bare. Deebert House has a truly magnificent garden. Bridge View Cottage was very bright and cheerful, as were Wolfe Tone Cottages. The Ash Hill Estate looked well with stone wall to a raised garden behind with some very colourful flowers.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Bruree road looked very neat with well maintained verges and hedges. However, weeds were noted to the bridge and a metal fence with timber posts could be replaced with something of a more permanent nature such as a hedge or stone wall. The Kilfinane road was well kept, apart from some weeds to the entrance area to some sheds. The daisies at the "Failte go Killmallock" sign were admired although the sign itself was quite grubby. The Tipperary road sported a small grotto and new grass bank. The verges were not as well cut as they could be. The raised stone bed at the Elton junction looked well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator was suitably impressed on this a first visit to the town of Kilmallock. The town is one of immense potential and could with a little more effort do extremely well in the competition. The towns of Kilmallock and Youghal have great similarities in terms of their wealth of Mediaeval ruins.