

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILCOMMON**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	15
The Built Environment	40	19
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	137

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The submitted entry form made no reference to the possible formulation of a work programme or indeed to development of links with other local organisations, County Council or other state agencies, except for reference to the FAS scheme. It is important that the committee get the support of all sections of the community if the village is to progress in the competition. I would suggest that the committee should approach the SI Felim Group with a view to getting help to put together a 3 year work programme that will set out a list of achievable objectives for the development of the village. It is very important to mobilise other sections of the community to row in behind the idea because all the work can not fall on the shoulders of a few people. If this approach is taken and achievable targets set, the village will progress pretty quickly in the competition, otherwise it could struggle to achieve its potential.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The main objective of this particular category is to protect, enhance, and increase the wildlife value of one's community and to project it in the most acceptable manner available. Every village has some form of wildlife habitats such as rivers, ponds, grass margins and hedgerows, open spaces and areas like graveyards, Kilcommon is no different. The Tidy Towns Committee has an important role to play here; start by involving the school, maybe organise a competition to help identify local wildlife habitats and make progress from there. Advice should be got from your local environment expert.

LANDSCAPING

Generally there is little collective effort to enhance the village by means of selective landscaping. However, individual homesteads have made efforts to brighten their premises by the provision of flower boxes and hanging baskets.

The development and the refurbishment of the bridge is to be welcomed and the landscaping taking place will be an enhancement to the village. But efforts have to be made to put together a landscaping plan that will soften the look of the village. This should be part of the 3 year work plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of buildings was in general adequate and certainly there is a need for a complete look at the overall built environment of the village. With certain exceptions most of the buildings were not exploited as well as they should be. The village could benefit from a village renewal programme which would address issues such as appropriate colour schemes. The Church and grounds were very well kept and work was ongoing on the adjoining graveyard on adjudication day. Unfortunately the School was drab with the adjoining area overgrown. The community hall was well presented. Individual premises such as `Hayes Funeral Home` and `McMahons Foodstore` were well presented but other buildings need a bit of an uplift.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter around the village except for pockets in the area in front of the church. Still the village could do with a few more litter bins strategically placed around the centre and the outskirts.

TIDINESS

It has to be taken into account that Kilcommon is a small rural farming village and can be subject to untidiness because of ongoing farming activities like drawing of silage and hay and the movement of cattle. Unfortunately there was too much untidiness on adjudication day, messy streets, back areas not kept properly and a number of road signs that were unsightly and in need of painting. The wall on the left coming from Newport should be painted to take the grey look off it.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As the village is the main residential area there is very little to add to what has been already said under the built environment section. With the exception of the shops mentioned, the row of houses on the road up from the hall, and a number of very well presented private residences, all other residences could benefit from a revitalisation in terms of colour at least.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads need to be maintained better. The Nenagh Road needs to have the grass margins cut back more as like all roads of this nature it is quite narrow and overgrown margins do not help the driver very much. The Newport road was in better condition; at least attempts had been made to cut back margins. The road north of the village was OK except for the untidiness of some of the back areas. The road signs without exception were in need of repainting. Greater links will have to be established with the County Council to ensure that these services are made available to the village on a more regular basis.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of the committee are to be commended but I feel that they need more support from the rest of the community to ensure that the village progresses in terms of this competition and also in terms of its overall development. It is an attractive village in a lovely setting nestled in the middle of the Sliabh Felims but as of yet it is not achieving what it is capable of. The committee should pursue the 3 year work programme option and seek advice from the SI Felim Development Group.