

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RIVERSTOWN-KILLEEN**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	27
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	202

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The application form submitted was very detailed and reflects good commitment on the part of a relatively small committee. Again as with many villages the level of interaction with the Local Authority and other state agencies is to be commended. The support that you get from surrounding communities for your fund-raising activities is encouraging. Riverstown/Killeen would definitely benefit from a simple work programme planned over a three year period. It is then that the real benefit from the 3rd level student scheme would come to the fore. Give it consideration for next years competition.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The core of the village is an ideal place to develop a nature related amenity. The area opposite the Riverbank Restaurant and all along the riverbank, which is very clean, is ideal for an imaginative initiative. Your comment about the pair of swans being frightened off was interesting. You should establish with the Co Council when further work on the sewerage scheme is to commence prior to undertaking any sensitive nature work. I would suggest that as part of any future work programme the committee should seek out the views of a wildlife expert who can give correct guidelines from which to work from.

LANDSCAPING

The green areas were well managed and the young trees planted on both sides of the road give the place an appealing look. I felt that the trees complemented the green areas greatly. The landscaping and shrub beds at the Riverstown Restaurant right on to the river bank are excellent. The village in general could do with a little more colour but credit must go to the villagers have provided flower tubs and baskets. It was also noticeable on adjudication day that there was a lady tending the existing beds with loving care.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Riverbank Restaurant stands out for its attention to detail. Congratulations to the owners who have made great efforts to ensure that it looks appealing without being garish. The traditional farmhouse B&B on the Offaly side deserves mention for its attractiveness. In general all business premises and private residences were present well. There were a few small things that could be improved; for instance council houses on the Portumna Rd could do with a little colour and an area around `Border Shop` was a little untidy with faded Sunday Independents on a rack outside. Riverstown House entrance is an imposing reminder of another era. The bridge is an attractive focal point with unique stonework and is complemented by the new amenity area on the river bank .

LITTER CONTROL

The problem that existed with litter last year has been corrected as the village and surrounds were virtually free of litter on adjudication day. The village needs a few more litter bins that are easily identified .

TIDINESS

All footpaths were well maintained with good weed control in place. Keep up the effort all year round. Unfortunately there are small number of what I would term unsightly sites. New houses at present being constructed on the Offaly side of the bridge will hopefully, by next year have new gardens. An old shed or haybarn on the Tipperary side looking from the bridge needs to be camouflaged. The galvanised roof of a shed adjacent to a house on the Offaly side needs to be refurbished or at least painted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Riverstown/Killeen has no built up estate except for a small terrace of houses on the Portumna Rd which

were some what forlorn because of lack of colour . I notice from application form that a generous offer has been made to help refurbish the houses on this terrace. All frontages and boundary walls of private residences were well maintained

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the approach roads were in good condition generally. There were however, specifics that need attention. The Birr Road approach was the best of the four roads with all the grass margins cut back expertly. Also the trees that are planted on both sides of the road give it an appealing look.

The Portumna Road grass margins were reasonably well cut but the margins where trees are planted need to be cut so as not to smother the base of the said trees. The continuous stonewall is an attractive feature. The concrete fence posting on the outskirts of the village on this road is detracting from the overall appearance. Efforts should be made to get a more appropriate fence constructed. The Nenagh Road and the side road off it were acceptable but part of the grass margins need to be cut to ensure uniformity.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Riverstown/Killeen is a pretty village. Unfortunately it is also on a busy network of roads. How traffic can be made to slow down is major problem. I am sure representations have been made to both Co Councils to address the problem. All the committee can do is keep trying. It would benefit the village so much more if the traffic problem could be solved satisfactorily. I must commend the committee for their efforts and also for highlighting any problems very clearly in the application submission. I admire the determination in trying to get things done and in trying to solve negative issues for the betterment of the village. Keep up the good work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/96)

Generally Riverstown Killeen had a neat appearance but attention to detail at some corners and yards was lacking. One litter bin was overflowing. Most of the stone walls were admired but some would have benefited from further attention. The gravelled area at the riverside was partly weedy. A little litter was noted on the Portumna Road. It is hoped that the development sites at the green on the Birr approach will be completed as soon as possible and that stone wall boundaries will be constructed.