

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILBEGGAN**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	29
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>186</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Development Plan which was prepared some years ago for Kilbeggan is a comprehensive guide of what needs to be done to show Kilbeggan to best advantage and is it still relevant. Your detailed entry form, clear map and photographic record outlining work in hand and future plans all indicate that you have a clear vision of what you want to achieve in the town and also indicates a strong commitment to progress. You still have many problems to overcome, including considerable dereliction and other substantial improvements can still be made to the quality of the streetscape. Attention to detail at this level is also vital, e.g. weeds on gravelled margins especially on some of the approach roads.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As evident from your entry form you have given considerable thought to the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats throughout Kilbeggan. The river is of major importance in this respect as indeed are the hedgerows, the various types of trees/shrubs, gardens, etc. Your nature trail and your liaison with schools, etc. augers well for the future of conservation in Kilbeggan.

### LANDSCAPING

Significant landscaping improvements continue to be made in various parts of the town, e.g. several attractive flower beds on the Mullingar road. The Tullamore road junction and the area around the Church is presented and maintained to a high standard. The Clara road junction also looks well. The hanging baskets, window boxes, flower tubs in the main street are important as they help to lift the town. The large number of trees that you planted in various locations throughout the town are important - where failures have occurred these should be replanted as soon as possible. The landscaping work at the river at Lockes distillery is another noteworthy feature, however, extensive grass areas on the river bank on the opposite side of road is not of the same standard as other grassed areas. The wooden fence needs repair on the Relic road and long grass is unsightly. As the whitethorns mature they will form an attractive hedge.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many attractive business premises and private residences throughout the Main Street of Kilbeggan and improvements continue to be made to the street scape. The redecorated Garda Station is a prime example of quality presentation and there are others. However this is still the weakest part of Kilbeggan. The derelict buildings especially at both sides of the road on the hill as you approach Lockes Distillery are a major problem. The murals at the house on the Dublin side of the town is an attractive means of camouflage. The wire scape stands out and is unattractive. There are many unsuitable shopfronts and signs. The overall impression of the Main Street is quite drab and a painting scheme would do much to lift the whole town centre. The public buildings, schools, church, several of the factories and industrial buildings are well maintained and have attractive landscaped grounds. A row of trees might be planted in the raised grassed area at Tara Meats. The gravelled parking area at O'Neills is weedy.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control appears to be quite good in Kilbeggan. On the day of inspection, while there was a light scattering of litter particularly on the Dublin approach and square, litter does not appear to be a major problem. However, there is no room for complacency and litter control requires ongoing attention. A number of litter bins need repair or painting and additional bins might be considered in suitable locations.

### TIDINESS

The derelict buildings on the main street together with the wire scape and the fact that many properties would look better if painted have a detrimental affect on the overall appearance of Kilbeggan. However

closer inspection indicates a high level of care and tidiness in other areas, e.g. approach roads, landscaping, well presented public buildings, etc.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many well presented private houses and gardens throughout Kilbeggan. The entrance area to St. Marys Avenue is excellent with its closely cut grass, trees and shrubs. Several boundary walls could be improved by painting, e.g. at Brosna View. Others should maintain areas between boundary walls and road to a higher standard.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Considerable effort has been put into maintaining the main approach, e.g. the Mullingar road with its landscaping work and attractive stretches of stone walls. The trees on the Dublin/Galway road and the closely cut grassed area are noted. However several gravelled margins are quite weedy on the Dublin road and while screening trees have been planted near the town, additional planting is still needed further out. Weedy footpath kerbings were noted on the Galway road. The Tullamore road is of a good standard with closely cut grass, trees and several stretches of well cut hedges and maintained stone walls. The other minor roads were not of the same standard and additional landscaping work is required, e.g. at the rear of the Bank of Ireland. A large number of directional signs and poles throughout the town need attention, cleaning and painting.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilbeggan continues to improve and there appears to be a high level of support throughout the town. The quality of your street scape as already mentioned is your main problem area.