

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLUCAN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12
Landscaping	40	18
The Built Environment	40	18
Litter Control	40	14
Tidiness	20	7
Residential Areas	30	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16
General Impression	10	3
TOTAL MARK	300	127

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

There is a lot of work to be done in Killucan to bring it up to a satisfactory standard. You should start with the basics, e.g. improving litter control, more regular attention to the appearance of the approach roads, etc. The comments made in your Entry Form were noted by adjudicator.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

While this is a new section in the competition hedgerows, mature trees and well planted gardens are important wildlife habitats and Killucan is well off in this respect. A good start would be to consult with local environment experts and devise a programme that would enhance natural habitats in the village and its environs.

LANDSCAPING

There is room for considerable improvements under this heading. The best example in the village is the new flowerbeds at the entrance to the attractive stone development at the rear of the Market House. The planted bank on the opposite side of the road to the amenity area on the Raharney road is another potential feature but will not look its best until the shrubs have matured. Regular weeding will also be important. The flowerbed at the junction of the Kinnegad/Mullingar roads is unsightly and should be removed. Screening trees could be planted in several locations, e.g. at the concrete fencing in front of amenity areas and at other locations. Additional window boxes and flower tubs would greatly brighten up the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are several attractive shops and business premises in Killucan. Painting would improve several shops and other buildings in the village proper as much of the village. The presentation of Ennis sets the standard. The Market House in an impressive building and hopefully it can be restored and made more use of. The public buildings, schools and Church are satisfactory.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is not up to standard in Killucan. A greater effort must be made involving all the community including the schools to tackle this problem. If litter could be brought under control it would have a substantial beneficial impact in the village.

TIDINESS

Killucan has not got a tidy appearance and this is caused by a number of factors, e.g. the litter problem as already mentioned. More regular sweeping of gutters and footpaths would help as would more attention to grass verges and hedges on the approach roads. Removing weeds and vegetation from the base of stone walls and a number of unsightly chainlink fencing all detract from the quality of presentation.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are several well presented houses and gardens in Killucan. However, a number in the village centre need to be painted and others should maintain gravelled boundary areas to a higher standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As has already been mentioned more regular cutting of hedges and verges on approach roads is needed and there are a number of open and gap areas which need to be screened by suitable planting. There

are several builders providers yards with unsightly chainlink security fencing which need attention. Stretches of stone wall have been repaired particularly in the vicinity of the Church of Ireland and this area looks the better for this work. Hopefully stone walls in other parts of the village will be brought up to the same standard and indeed new stretches of wall could be built in a number of gap areas. Several directional signs and village name signs need painting or cleaning and fly posting needs to be removed from ESB/Telecom poles.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

While there have been some worthwhile improvements noted since last year, e.g. repaired stone walls and landscaping at the rear of the Market House, Killucan still has a long way to go to reach its true potential. Hopefully the recommendations in your development plan can be implemented and that you can maximise the FAS, Village Renewal and other similar schemes to the benefit of Killucan.