

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILNALECK**  
County : **CAVAN**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	25	22
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	13	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	14	15
General Impression	10	5	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>135</b>

## **Kilnaleck, County Cavan**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The Kilnaleck Community Council appear to have a good working relationship with both the local community and such statutory bodies as Cavan County Council and FAS. However, an overall strategy is essential if you are to proceed to greater things in the competition. A 3/5 year plan of campaign would give you a framework within which to work, highlighting the town's strengths and improving its weaker points. The enthusiasm is obviously there!

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Buildings throughout the main streets of the town generally looked well cared for, those of note being Briody's, the Post Office, O'Reilly's Pub in a bright yellow with green quoins and plinths and the Copper Kettle which sported attractive floral displays of pink and purple petunias. The town has a fine vernacular heritage of traditional shop fronts such as Boylan's and Gilchrist's Medical Hall on Church Street. In terms of public buildings the Garda Station was very fresh but there is scope for landscaping the very stark looking concrete forecourt area. The Hall / Library looked reasonably fresh at the facade. However, a closer inspection revealed that the side wall was stained due to a rusty gutter which needs replacing. Weeds were also apparent to the front of the building and along the side. The church was very fresh and its grounds were well maintained. However the railings were quite rusty. The proposed work to the old National School is to be commended as at the moment it looks quite unsightly. Inappropriate curved canopies and plastic signs should be replaced with traditional fabric awnings and timber signs where necessary.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaped areas along main streets generally looked well cared for, with the notable exception of the open space at the housing estate at the top of Main Street which had some very attractive flowerbeds with snap-dragons etc. but its surrounding grass area was quite overgrown. The bench inset into the attractive stone wall on Church Street was admired.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

To progress further in this aspect of the competition you should get in touch with such national bodies as ENFO and Conservation Volunteers Ireland to give you further information. You should identify the wildlife habitats in your locality, survey the village and produce a detailed map showing areas of wildlife importance and then formulate a wildlife management plan. You could also get local enthusiasts involved and local school children in order to do a project on the wildlife in their area.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard in this category was quite good as the village was virtually litter-free on adjudication day. However, there were some papers apparent along Main Street.

## **TIDINESS**

The standard in this category could be improved upon. You should screen unsightly yard areas such as that on the Ballinagh Road from public view. Building materials should be removed once construction work has been completed. The area to the front of the Community Council Office is still very wild. Weeds have already been noted in this report to the side and front of the Library on Church Road. The derelict open site diagonally opposite the newsagents at the top of Main Street is quite prominent and hopefully something will be done in these areas soon. The roadway leading down to the GAA grounds behind the church was very weedy and potholed.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category was quite high with residents showing great pride in their properties. There were quite a few pretty cottage gardens such as those opposite the Family Practice Centre and along Church Road. The new housing further along this road was well maintained and neat but perhaps could be developed further in terms of landscaping in relation to trees and shrubs and possibly flower beds. Other houses of note along Church Road were the attractive one with colourful displays of lupins and the one with the beautifully manicured lawn beside the church. The houses along the Ballyjamesduff Road were generally well maintained.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

This category unfortunately was poor. The approach roads do not seem to have been improved upon since last year's adjudication. The Ballinagh Road was very overgrown with the Welcome signs and town nameplate sign being virtually obscured by high grass. Election posters were still in evidence and the speed limit sign was extremely grubby. In terms of signage the children crossing sign on the town side was quite grubby and the directional signs at the centre of the village were also extremely grubby and quite rusty. The town nameplate sign was also obscured by high grass on the Ballyjamesduff Road which was also very overgrown.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The town of Kilnaleck is a charming country town with fine examples of vernacular architecture. It has the potential to do well in the competition in future years, provided the weak areas within the town are tackled. This can only be achieved by means of an overall structured plan of action for future improvement.