

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILKISHEN**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	40
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	27	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>211</b>

## **Kilkishen, Co. Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for completed application form and excellent map which were useful to the adjudicator on the day. However, as mentioned in last years report it is now necessary to put together a three to five year plan identifying the way forward for the village. Over the years Kilkishen has gained the reputation of being an attractive traditional Irish village with special landscaping and developmental features. However, it would seem that the energy and commitment of all the community towards this goal is slowing down somewhat. There are difficult issues to be tackled and it is up to the residents of Kilkishen to become involved in tackling these issues and to support the Committee in every way possible.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Church and grounds are well maintained as is the School although some work could be undertaken here in the landscaping area. On the Broadford approach the forge is a novel feature - here we would suggest that the galvanised roof is painted dark green. In the village most business premises are well maintained but Kilkishen Furniture needs painting badly and the Motor factors at the opposite end of the village is very unsightly - work must commence here as soon as possible. Murphy's Take Away is reasonably well maintained but the grounds could do with some attention. At the Kilkishen Community Centre the flower planting in the bucket should be removed as it is overgrown. Good stone walls are a feature of the village and work was in progress on same on the Sixmilebridge approach.

### **LANDSCAPING**

A number of areas in the village and on approach roads have been nicely landscaped and the trees are maturing well. However, in a number of instances there are tubs (pink and blue wooden and white Grecian); flowerbeds (Plunkett Drive) and on Sixmilebridge approach; metal poles for hanging baskets (on a number of approach roads) small blue and yellow pots at the landscaped area of Broadford and Tulla roads and at the pump on the main street and none of these have plants in them. They should be either planted up or removed - the latter would be preferable if they cannot be maintained. In your submission you mention that you felt that the 27th June last year was too early for adjudication. However, the emphasis now is on year round colour and not just for a limited period in the Summer. At present there are many plants in bloom and in fact the rose bed opposite Donnellans was a joy to behold on the day of adjudication. Work was in progress on the beds near the Broadford/Tulla junction. The Dun an Oir estate is well landscaped with year round shrubs and trees - also the grassed areas are good here. However, the black wooden tubs needed repainting.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This new area in the Competition is trying to encourage people to have an awareness of nature conservation in their village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Why not invite your local environmental experts and groups to get involved to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you will require.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was very little litter in evidence on the day of adjudication and litter bins were strategically placed around the village. Well done to all concerned.

## **TIDINESS**

In the main the village had a tidy appearance except for the areas mentioned above - the Motor Factor premises being one of the prime offenders. The Kilkishen Display Map needs the surrounds restained and Shannon Development could be approached with a view to assisting with this work. At Hillcrest Grove and Plunkett Drive it would be good if the grass in the communal green areas at the end of the estates were cut for recreational purposes.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most private houses in the town and on the approach roads were well presented with some notable exceptions on the Broadford approach. However, the display of farm machinery on this road is well done and should be of great interest to visitors. Plunkett Drive houses are well presented as are the houses in the Dun an Oir Estate and also Hillcrest Grove. On the road in to Hillcrest Drive the back entrance to a private residence needs some attention.

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

The approach roads are generally well presented except the gateway into the Game Sanctuary on the Tulla approach needs attention. There are no back streets except to housing estates and these have already been dealt with. We note your comments in regard to the fact that footpaths will not be improved until the work on the proposed new sewerage scheme for Kilkishen has been completed.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kilkishen is a lovely village where many people have expended a considerable amount of time and energy on a voluntary basis to enhance its appearance and make it a pleasant place in which to live and to visit over the years. Unfortunately, it now seems that not all the community are pulling their weight and we would suggest that the Committee try to encourage new blood to become involved to ensure that the good work continues. In view of Kilkishen's reputation and hard work in the past we look forward to future progress with interest.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/97)**

Kilkishen is a village which has consistently done well in the competition. However, as suggested by the first adjudicator, possibly a certain complacency has set in. The village looked quite neglected on a second adjudication day. All of the landscaped areas were well maintained - this is obviously an aspect of the competition which is enjoyed. The picnic area on the Quin Road was most attractive. The village was filled with hanging baskets and overflowing timber tubs and the landscaped areas on the Tulla side of the village were also admired. Housing throughout was well maintained including Hillcrest Grove and Plunkett Drive which sported some attractive signage. The old church grounds were well maintained, however, the church itself looked quite neglected with its vacant unglazed windows. The abandoned cottages near the centre of the village should be re-whitewashed and the burnt out / abandoned two storey house beside Eva's Bar looked most unfortunate. The tin roofs to the cottages opposite Nonie's are slightly rusty and would benefit from a fresh coat of paint in a traditional red or green which would look very cheerful. The boundary wall of the church should be freshened up before next year. Kilkishen Furniture looked extremely flaky. Weed control was a problem on the day also, many weeds were apparent to kerbsides, to gateways and to a boundary wall beyond the furniture shop on the Tulla Road.