

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILMIHIL**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	31
The Built Environment	40	22	23
Landscaping	40	21	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	14	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	20
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	158	163

Kilmihil, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning your completed entry form. More than ever you need a 3-5 year development plan that will chart out a phased programme of improvements with agreement and participation from the community. You have many serious environmental problems that need immediate attention. There is a regrettable acceptance of untidiness by too many commercial operators, especially those who make little effort to keep the forecourts of their premises tidy.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is accepted that the area under adjudication is quite widespread relative to the population. As mentioned before, many of the problems are way beyond the scope of a voluntary committee acting alone and you will need to get the interest and active participation of other agencies if you are to progress. There are many fine buildings in the village that need painting; indeed the village in general would benefit from painting. There is a plethora of rusty corrugated roofs that are spoiling many areas. The Ceard Scoil would benefit from painting. Siopa an Chuinne is now almost derelict, and the facelift of previous years is no longer effective.

LANDSCAPING

The most disappointing aspect of Kilmihill under this section relates to the presentation of the GAA complex. The two Danger - Keep Out signs are baffling. The new school is spoiled by the wild area inside the chainlink fencing on the approach and the grass area at the school had not been cut for some time. St. Michaels Shrine off Main Street is unique with its stations of the cross inscriptions in Irish. Station one and two are missing - are these under repair? There are signs of development here and the refurbishment of this development provides an ideal community project, and should be completed in good taste. There is no progress with improving the building behind the Celtic Cross monument. The Cross itself should be cleaned and would only take one evening to carry out. The village is ideal for tree planting and this should be included in your development plan. The Enterprise Centre is very badly presented and reflects little concern for the environment.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

When you draft your plan you should include a section under wildlife that would accommodate planting and hedgerow control favourable to wildlife. You can involve local experts in this and/or consult national organisations such as the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland.

LITTER CONTROL

The village core had little evidence of litter and indiscriminate dumping does not appear to be a problem. Are the streets being swept regularly? The community employment scheme was busily engaged in cleaning the approach roads and in the removal of weed growth from the gutters.

TIDINESS

This is your weakest section and there is too high a tolerance from residents for the untidy state of many commercial areas. Approach roads have many badly presented open spaces that need attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

On an individual basis houses are well kept, but there is no evidence of co-ordinated effort to have houses painted. There is also an unusual amount of unoccupied and derelict houses throughout the village that will need to be addressed in the long-term. There is still no identity on the housing estate at the Ennis approach. This area has disimproved since last year and the landscaping effort at the corner is not being maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general road surface is poor and the condition of footpaths is way below average. Boundary walls are poorly presented and the railing on the wall at St. Michaels Shrine should be replaced. Many side and back entrances are in poor presentation and need a clean up.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village needs a major painting blitz and the active co-operation of residents and traders alike if you are to progress. You should set up a representative committee that will take on board many of the problems outlined in this report. The problems here will not be solved by a 10 person Tidy Towns group. You should contact Clare Co. Council, Shannon Development and other relevant corporate bodies, with the aim of getting widespread involvement in an overall improvement plan. Good luck for 1998.