

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILRUSH**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	214

Kilrush, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form together with a copy of C.A.A.s report, which is an ideal guide for phased developments in Kilrush. Indeed you now have an opportunity to liaise with other agencies in an effort to have as much of the plan as possible implemented. You should prioritise your work each year and divide your projects into short, medium and long-term. You are fortunate in having such close co-operation with the Urban Council and together you should be able to tackle the many suggestions in the plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As mentioned last year you have some fine 20th and 19th Century buildings, which are most impressive and well laid out. Your task now is to ensure that these fine buildings, especially in the core of the town are well maintained. The recent environment developments around the Town Hall are excellent and provide an attractive focus point for Kilrush. The Churches and schools scored well again this year and the new shopping centre provides you with an opportunity to further enhance Francis Street. It is important that the centre is appropriately landscaped when complete. The closure of the Inis Cathaigh Hotel is regrettable as it is now a weed and litter trap. The Creek Lodge and Activity Centre are very well presented and have improved the whole Marina area. The painting pattern of strong colours should be pursued. All houses in the town were presented to a high standard with the Bank of Ireland displaying some attractive window boxes.

LANDSCAPING

You have maintained your many projects of previous years and the large amount of grass to be mowed is acknowledged. The bright flowery displays on the approach roads and at many corner areas add great colour to the town. The Student Scheme is effective. You still have some problems with road surfaces and the area fronting the Pitch & Putt course on the Ennis approach is particularly bad. St. Theresas Nursing Home will be further enhanced when the landscaping is complete and the boundary walls finished. The two principal approach roads are well presented again this year and the long entrance on the Kilkee road is well maintained. Some small unattended open spaces throughout the town are keeping your standard from progressing.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have numerous locations in and around the town suitable for the propagation of wildlife. You should make contact with the I.W.C. and other appropriate organisations. This is a specialist area and one which will take time to popularise.

LITTER CONTROL

You have slipped a little in this section and litter was seen outside the entrance to the Information Centre at the Town Hall. However, the many streets in and around the town were almost free of litter and this is most commendable. Litter bins appear to be adequate in numbers and are well spaced.

TIDINESS

Some commercial premises are below standard and need to improve their appearance. It is acceptable that the nature of many operations require a good deal of loading and unloading, but forecourts in particular should be well presented. The C.A.A.S report refers to areas that need improvement and these should be tackled in the coming years, in association with the owners.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Like most towns and villages there is much evidence of house building and the policy for new housing should be to build on existing available spaces throughout the town. For the most part housing estates are well presented and many have excellent gardens and flower displays. The weakness in this section relates to the boundary walls, many of which need painting. The problem of developing flower displays at the entrances to estates is commendable. Some estates and streets also require nameplates, while the use of stone slabs with estate names is excellent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general roads are well surfaced and maintained, but there is a problem in some areas with rough surfaces on the margins. Your efforts with stone wall buildings in recent years have led to added developments, i.e. grass margins and tree planting and this is the mix you should aim for. The road from Kilrush to Cappa is very grubby in places and the surface at the new toilet block in Cappa needs improvement. These are works for the local authority and as a committee you should lobby for improvement.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Kilrush looked well on adjudication day and there are genuine community efforts to present the town to a high standard. The developments at the Marina have opened up great possibilities in this important part of the town and the tree planting (either scheme acceptable) on Frances St. should be pursued. At the same time you need to protect the character of Kilrush as an important market town with strong traditions associated with water activity.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/97)

The heritage town of Kilrush looked well on a sunny August second adjudication day. The buildings in the town were reasonably fresh although some would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. The town has a heritage of fine traditional shop fronts, many of which would benefit from a mere coat of paint to restore them to their former glory. Crotty's is a fine traditional shop front. The old cinema and ballroom are ripe for restoration. The heritage centre looked well as did the activity centre near the marina. The

marina area itself was reasonable. The steel windows to the Post Office were quite rusty as were the railings to the church. A rusty pole was also spotted to directional signage by the marina to Cappagh. The stone warehouse to Glynn Marina Supplies should be de-weeded as it is a fine building. Curved canopies and projecting plastic signs should be discouraged and replaced with more traditional timber signs and fabric awnings, this is generally not a problem in the town although one or two are still evident. Toler Street looked fine, although a couple of walls to either side of the road would benefit from re-whitewashing.