

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KISKEAM**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	28	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	--
Litter Control	40	30	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	21	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	--
General Impression	10	8	--
TOTAL MARK	300	188	--

Kiskeam, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The co-operative effort, both within the community and with the official bodies, is most impressive. It is good to see Kiskeam re-entering the competition with such a high level of enthusiasm and initiative. A great deal already seems to have been accomplished: the challenge now will be to maintain the impetus. You may find that a three or five year development plan will help to concentrate objectives and lead to increasingly high standards, as has been the case in a number of other centres.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

From a distance, the colour of the buildings makes a wonderful statement in the landscape - this village is making its presence seen. Church, school, community centre, Post Office and Why Not premises are all attractively presented. However, a large dilapidated corrugated iron roof is very visible from some quarters.

LANDSCAPING

It is good to see a balance between what is neat and what is environmentally desirable. Major planting at the east end of the village is attractive and successful, but little 'corners' of planting here and there also add a pleasurable visual experience. The planting in the church grounds is particularly effective - well planned and unfussy. The areas opposite the Church and the Pub are obviously designated for planting/landscaping in the fullness of time, and this will be looked forward to. The young trees, and the beech hedging on the southern side of the main street, are first class; hedging on the north side (opposite) just needs nurturing to make it match. The graveyard is well kept; the interesting little stone building beyond looks ripe for featuring in a landscaping project.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Kiskeam is ideally placed in a prime agricultural region, surrounded by splendid mature timber, to develop an active awareness in the flora and fauna of its neighbourhood. The section under this heading in the Tidy Towns booklet, and the sheet from Conservation Volunteers Ireland, should be helpful.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little disposable litter in Kiskeam on adjudication day. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

There was quite an amount of weed in the neighbourhood of the car park and Community Hall, but this area obviously cannot be properly assessed until the developmental work such as kerbing has been completed. Old petrol pumps looked somewhat out of place - neither interestingly preserved as from another era, nor as

working pumps.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Painting of houses of all periods is excellent. Because the standard of boundary walls is so high, those which do not quite match up are more obvious than they would be in a less tidy village. The open nature of so many gardens was much admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces, paving and street furniture are first class. The car park at the church is very well kept; the one near the graveyard is clearly in the course of improvement. The bridge on the Ballydesmond road was a little overgrown at the time of adjudication. The cemetery wall had been recently painted a pleasing shade of grey. The new stone walls, and the stone walls in the course of construction, are a most admirable feature.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A remarkable vibrant village. It will be very interesting to see the outcome of current developments this time next year.