

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILCOCK**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	165	165

Kilcock, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The by-pass road and the consequent reduction in traffic has given Kilcock more of an opportunity to come into its own. The town is in transition with substantial new housing and other developments in progress. Even allowing for work in hand the overall impression of Kilcock is of a town that needs to do a lot more to show itself off to best advantage. The preparation of an overall Development Plan which would set out priorities and obtain support in the wider community would be helpful. The lack of a sketch map in your entry form together with an absence of street names has complicated the adjudication process.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the public buildings, such as the Church, schools, etc., are satisfactory. The Leaf Factory and Esso Petrol Station are well presented. There are a number of attractive business premises, e.g. Ulster Bank. Several of the shops have colourful frontages, e.g. Spar Supermarket. The square is the focal point of Kilcock but its general image and that of the surrounding streets is of drabness and considerable dereliction.

LANDSCAPING

The canal is the most prominent feature of Kilcock. The well maintained grass banks on both sides of the canal with the attractive stone work, trees and public seating is good and is widely used by the public. Attractive shrubberies are located at the Leaf Factory and the adjoining Esso Garage, Scoile Dara and the Presentation Convent. A number of the newer housing schemes on the Galway and Naas roads have neatly cut grass, shrubs and trees.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Royal Canal is a magnificent amenity and a wonderful habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. It was a real pleasure to see flocks of mallard as well as fishermen on the canal on the day of inspection. An information board which would detail the various species of birds, fish, insects and vegetation, etc. would be both ornamental and educational and should be considered. Sponsorship for this might be obtained from one of the companies in Kilcock.

LITTER CONTROL

Considerable improvements can be made in litter control. Litter is visible in the central part of the town around the square, on the approach roads and at the canal amenity etc. Floating litter trapped in the rushes and in the harbour area is unsightly and needs to be removed on a regular basis.

TIDINESS

A lot more needs to be done before Kilcock can be called a tidy Town. A certain element of drabness, derelict buildings, lack of attention to detail, e.g. weedy stone walls detract from the appearance of the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many well presented private houses throughout Kilcock. The new housing schemes are also attractive e.g. Courtown Park. There are also several housing schemes in various stages of completion, e.g. Abbeyfields, Pinewood Lawns, etc. Trees would complement the stone wall and iron railing boundary of Courtown Park.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Many of the relevant comments under this section have already been made under previous headings and it is not necessary to repeat them. The standard of maintenance of the approach roads is mixed. Grass verges, for example, have been cut but this should be done more often. Road surfaces are in need of up-grading e.g. in square, at the Naas road junction and at other locations. Kilcock is big enough to have street name signs and if they were provided could give a boost to bi-lingualism.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilcock is a town with considerable potential to improve. A development plan could be the vehicle which would draw all sections together - new residents, business community, Local Authority and other state agencies and local bodies.