

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILCULLEN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	21	19
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	192	181

Kilcullen, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed questionnaire and map which were very helpful. Also, congratulations and thank you for submitting your five year plan, which is very ambitious. It is obvious that you have very good support at local level and you are getting support from the County Council and FAS, as well as local schools. The adjudicators were very impressed with the amount of work that was taking place on day of adjudication, including litter cadets on petrol. You have some unique features, including the River Liffey and the Curragh nearby. You have a strong heritage and try to expand on this in years to come. It is very disappointing to see that Kilcullen has been omitted from the Village Renewal Scheme, since there is obviously strong community involvement and evidence of improvements to date are visible throughout the town. The visibility of the Irish language was an emphasis in this year's competition; try to expand on this where possible. It is good to see one or two premises have made use of Irish. Well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In considering the main aspects of buildings, there are two factors to be kept in mind, one is the quality of the individual structure, i.e., its presentation and materials used and secondly is the building in its overall context. Insensitive changes to individual buildings can destroy the overall character of the street. Buildings on corners, or at the end of streets assume greater civic design importance because of their location. Where such buildings are modified insensitively, or allowed to fall into disrepair, it can have serious visual implications. In this regard, it is felt that the Hideout could be a lot better presented. It is not necessary for new shop fronts to be traditional or Georgian in character; a simple, modern-style shop front is often more appropriate. Try to extend your presentation activities to footpaths, forecourts and side areas, but avoid making areas inaccessible, particularly for wheelchairs. The car park at the rear of the Hideout could be much improved. The basketball area to the rear of Conroy Park was particularly bad; this could be a project to tackle for the coming year as it would provide an important amenity for the residents. The car park of the Community Centre could be improved also - it was good to see work beginning on this. Try to paint the wall outside the school on The Curragh Road. Kilcullen Business Park was noted, particularly its landscaping. We look forward to further improvements in this area. Weeds were noted at the Tennis Club car park. The adjudicators would like to congratulate the provision of a disabled ramp at the Canoe Club and by the car park near the bridge. Well done in this regard. A new development is noted underway at the Canoe Club - the area around here was otherwise well presented. Premises that were looking well on day of adjudication included the Catholic Church and its grounds, (it was good to see that the entrance into the

Church had been washed), Cross Cuts Hair Salon; Nolan's; Bardon's; The White Horse Inn and Brendan O'Connell Solicitors. There is still considerable room for improvement under this category. The Hideout was not looking its usual best with the use of flowers - try to upgrade this because of the importance of its location. The Rainbow needs to be painted and Yankee Star could be improved. Try to remove the plastic canopy at McTernans; Express America could be improved and try to paint the sign at the Chinese Take Away.

LANDSCAPING

The adjudicators commend the tree planting and replacement of trees that has taken place, together with the provision of flower tubs and hanging baskets along the Main Street. A much improved presentation was noted at the junction of the Curragh Road. An excellent presentation was also noted at Nissan Maxol Garage with fantastic colour - congratulations. Also, there was an excellent presentation on the Dunlavin Road. The river side area was very well presented. A good presentation all round, including, for example, the area by the Town Hall. The approach road from Naas was quite good as well; for example, improvements were noted near the sign for Kilcullen and it was good to see grass being cleared from fencing on the day of adjudication.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The adjudicators commend the work being undertaken at the schools in relation to the tree planting and wild flower project. Kilcullen is unique in having a river side walk, which provides a very important habitat for a number of species. Try to minimise - the use of weed killer, for example, at the entrance to the Community Centre. Try to remove the long grass also. The river provides a fantastic habitat and was very well presented, allowing for access for local residents, as well as supporting a number of habitats. The adjudicators also commend the development of ramps into this area. Well done in this regard. The seat by the river near the car park needs to be fixed.

LITTER CONTROL

It is nice to see new bins and that you have also painted other bins. Well done. It is obvious that the involvement of school children is very evident. Congratulations on the Litter Watch Programme. The adjudicators would especially like to commend seeing children picking up litter along the Main Street on the day of adjudication - this is something that is not very common and it would be great if other towns would follow suit. Well done to those involved. Generally, the town was litter free along the main streets. It was litter free outside Dowlings. However, litter was evident in the brook by the pitch and putt courses and in the car park of the Community Hall. Try to watch this area for next year. Overall, a good performance under this category.

TIDINESS

This section takes into account the colour, screening and signage, including bilingualism, of recycling facilities, the absence of fly posting and graffiti, the control of weeds at kerbs and base of

buildings and the overall visual tidiness of the town, including its buildings, wire scape, approaches etc. It was good to see recycling facilities in the Church car park. In general, there is a need to pay more attention to the cleaning up of road signs, particularly, where they are shadowed by trees. Also, try to improve some signs, e.g. replace the Tyre Centre sign at the car park. Undergrounding of wire cables would also help improve the appearance of tidiness. Unfortunately, some of the buildings, around the mart, for example, take from the overall visual appearance of the town. While some improvements are noted, more can be done. Similarly, with other buildings, signage takes from the overall appearance. Along the Main Street and the approach from the south was quite good in terms of tidiness, as was the approach from the north.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

An excellent presentation was noted at Nicholastown this year, together with Avondale Drive. It was good to see cleaning taking place on the day of adjudication in this park. Well done to those involved, which included both parents and children. Some grassed areas need cutting. Watch the kerbing as small sprinklings of litter were evident. Also, the blown cut grass took from the overall tidiness. Weeds were noted by kerbs and no litter bins were evident - perhaps you could work on this for next year. But, overall, a good presentation. Conroy Park had a very good presentation at its entrance and a good effort was noted in the centre of the park. Well done. An excellent presentation was noted at St. Brigid's Avenue; congratulations in this regard. Try to paint the pink building on the Curragh Road. A white cottage on the Naas approach road on the right hand side was especially singled out for a good effort. At Moanbane Park, a new sign was noted, which included Irish. This park was totally litter free, no weeds were evident and work is taking place at the entrance on a new planting area on the day of adjudication. Congratulations to those involved. Bishop Rogan Park was very neat and tidy and was litter free. An excellent presentation was noted at Logstown also, with the footpath improved; well done. Good efforts were noted with flowers at a number of premises near Hillside Stores. Overall, a very good performance under this category, well done in this regard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approaching Kilcullen from Dunlavin, tree planting is coming on well. The adjudicators saw a very good landscaped area on the right hand side. Try to kerb this approach road and put in a footpath if possible. Approaching Dunlavin from The Curragh, grass was quite long on the right hand side, although the left hand side had been cut. Try to replace the Kilcullen sign and try to remove gravel by kerbing which takes from the overall appearance of tidiness. Further in on the right hand side, grass had been cut. Approaching from Naas, a good presentation was noted at the sign; it was also encouraging to see long grass being cleared from Hawthorn hedging near the fencing on day of adjudication - well done in this regard. Approaching from the south there was a very neat and tidy appearance. Tree planting

is coming on very well; try to finish the landscaping at the turn-off to the old Carlow road. New stone work was noted further in on the left hand side. Resurfacing of the footpath was not yet complete at the time of adjudication. Logstown road also had a very good presentation, helped, no doubt by the caring residents. Overall, a very good presentation under this category.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression within Kilcullen this year is was good overall. Residential areas are generally very good. You are placing considerable emphasis on litter control, which is also encouraging to see. Some premises were very well presented, but there is room for further improvement in this area. Try to maintain the efforts and commitment carried out over the past few years and Kilcullen should do very well as a result. Good luck for 98.