

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILL**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	9	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>230</b>

## **Kill, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map which were helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your detailed five year plan. This plan should be simple and realistic, covering 3 - 5 pages, together with a map outlining areas for improvement or particular problem areas. Try to get greater input from your local authority, business community, residents and schools. As the village is at the top of its category in the county you need to be innovative in your approach to maintain this lead. The visibility of the Irish language was an emphasis in this year's competition, and it was very welcoming to see the use of Irish on the approaches, namely Failte and Slan signs. It is also nice to see the incorporation of Irish Heritage into the features of the village; for example, St. Brigids Cross. Try to carefully consider all new projects that you undertake - while the adjudicators would like to suggest that you should not be afraid to experiment, the adjudicators wondered if there was a need to render the wall outside the church as plaster was being removed from this wall at time of adjudication - all this wall really needs is to be freshly painted.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

At the GAA Centre, try to improve the car park as dumping of sacks was noted in one corner and litter was also noted by the gate. Also try to paint the bollards at the doorway. A good effort was noted with flowers at the Village Store. Claredon Court was very neat and tidy; well done. However, it was disappointing to see the traditional lamps broken. Cobble locking, seating and a new bin was noted outside the solicitors office, which was being used by three elderly gentlemen at the time of adjudication. Kildare Tooling Services was very good also. An improved wall was noted at The Dew Drop Inn but the building itself would benefit from a painting. Also, try to remove the plastic signage and bunting. Paint the gate and tidy the rear of the old house; otherwise, it was an excellent presentation. The school grounds and perimeter walls would benefit from painting. A very good mix of old and new buildings is evident throughout the village of Kill. The grounds of the Church of Ireland were beautifully presented, and Kill Betting Office was freshly painted. While some improvements were noted in the car park, significant work is still needed.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The stream was beautifully presented this year with the stepped stream and beautiful rose beds. Try to repair the seat near here as it is a very nice feature. The pump area was also very well presented; well done. Lovely landscaping efforts were noted in the area opposite the church and at the Dublin S.P.C.A. sign. Very well cared for shrubberys were noted opposite St. Patricks Park, congratulations to those involved. Try to paint the pump on the approach road from Kill Equestrian Centre. Tree planting was

noted to the left of the new residential park near the Church of Ireland. Overall, the adjudicators were impressed with the presentation of open spaces this year as in other years. Congratulations to those involved.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round emphasis on environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are there woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as urban spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of future importance, e.g. school grounds and gardens, derelict sites etc. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Kill would include identification of the flora and fauna in the area, preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan and identification of tasks to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. In this regard, Kill makes good use of the stream by giving consideration to both landscaping and conserving the natural vegetation on the other side of the bridge - well done in this regard. Try to expand on additional habitats throughout the village and include school children in this category by encouraging them to take on projects.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control throughout the village is excellent again this year; congratulations. The only place where litter was noted was in the car park of the Dew Drop Inn.

## **TIDINESS**

Try to paint the signs for Killeel and Thorn Lodge. Also the signs for Straffan and Naas need to be painted. It is good to see kerbing is strimmed, although some weeds were noted by the kerbs in some isolated cases (e.g. the Equestrian Centre). Overall, there is a very neat and tidy appearance throughout Kill this year. There is a need, however, to resurface in some places.

In the long term, try to underground wires, if possible. The adjudicators would like to know of any recycling initiatives that are taking place in Kill. In this regard, the sign was noted on the Dublin approach. The adjudicators recognise the sensitive proposals for the development of a dump but feel that more appropriate initiatives could be undertaken in furthering Kill's concerns, rather than having a sign by the nameplate on the main road.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Residential areas are very well presented this year, as was the case in other years. Try to incorporate Irish, if possible, into nameplates. In this regard, it was good to see Ard na Gaeilge. A nice monument was noted. The Gables was very well presented, with good attention to detail. Whitethorn Grove was also very good, with good individual effort noted. St. Brigid's Terrace was excellent but try to paint some premises, and also paint the seat. An excellent effort was also noted in the premises opposite the chemist at Claredon Court. Brae Cottage was well presented, as was River Lawn. Excellent individual residential efforts were noted overall. The entrance into St. Patrick's Park was also excellent, with flowers and very good attention to detail. Dated surfaces need to be improved in this park, as cracks were noted in roads and paving. Tree planting at the end of one junction and display in this park were very good. The new park at Hartwell Green is also excellent. Overall, an exceptional effort has been made by the residents; well done. Special commendation is due to many premises but two singled out by the adjudicators include the two white cottages opposite the chemist.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

On the approach road from the Ambassador Hotel, it was good to see a Failte sign. Try to clean up the Welcome to Kill sign. The area is very neat and tidy; however, small sprinklings of litter were noted. The Slan sign was noted from the traffic lights together with Failte go Chill sign; well done in this regard. Nice landscaping is noted throughout, but more appropriate signage is needed. There is a need in places to resurface the roads; however, it was good to see well surfaced and wide footpaths providing good accessibility. Seating was noted throughout the village also. Try to replace the 30 MPH sign on the approach road from the Equestrian Centre. This approach was very good, and in time try to kerb the grassed area where it meets the road. Overall, a good presentation.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

An excellent impression was evident throughout Kill this year; congratulations. You have a great appreciation of your village and one which is particularly enhanced through the use of landscaping, helped by residents. You are continuing to make improvements in this competition. Good luck for the future. Keep up the good work.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (6/8/97)**

Kill looked beautiful during our second adjudication and entrance points from the main road make a very good introduction to the village. The small square in the village centre is an attractive development also. Your problem regarding trailers turning and eroding the grass margins is a difficult one to deal with. Litter control was less good on our second visit than it appears to have been on the first. Weak spots were the Dew Drop Inn and the Mace Superstore. The Old House pub looked especially well. The school and in particular its boundary walls could be painted or whitewashed for next year's presentation. Some flowering shrubs or additional trees behind this wall might be a good idea. The planting of Birch trees on verges throughout the River Lawns Development is a nice touch as the species chosen is not that common on verges. The boundary walls of some residential properties on the main road of the village need attention. The carpark of the GAA centre looks large and bare and would benefit from landscaping and the timber post fencing between it and the adjacent access road could be planted with hedgerow. Further landscaping of the green spaces in the residential development beside the GAA centre is suggested. Other alternatives might be the development of an adventure sports playground or perhaps a wildlife garden. A nameplate or namestone for this development could also be provided. The overall standard of presentation of residential areas in the village is excellent. It is good to note the numerous public seats and litter bins throughout the village. The banners on the Dew Drop Inn are inappropriate and should be replaced by more permanent signage.