

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILMEAD**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>186</b>

## **Kilmead, Co. Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your detailed map and entry form which were very helpful during the course of adjudication, together with your 3 - 5 year plan with many interesting proposals. It is obvious that you have some very good community support throughout the area. Congratulations on the bi-centenary of the old church for next year. Try to develop aspects of your heritage in the context of your Tidy Towns activities for the village. It is also very nice to note your motto for Kilmead Tidy Towns for the next 3 - 5 years, "If our minds can perceive it, and our hearts can believe it, then we can achieve it". Good luck in this regard; the evidence of work done in the past is a good indication of your future success.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The church had been newly painted and looked very well on day of adjudication. The new school being built was also noted. Kelly's was very well presented with nice flowers noted. Try to rebuild the wall opposite Kelly's just at the junction as the gate pillars are a nice stone feature and could be nice if properly finished. The weeds in the car park of the garage are again untidy this year.

### **LANDSCAPING**

A very impressive shrubbery was noted at the entrance to New Line Grove this year. Well done in this regard and congratulations to those involved. Also, extensive tree planting has been noted around this area. The church grounds are beautifully landscaped, as was the entrance to the cemetery. Congratulations on planting a large amount of new trees. The raised stone bed was noted opposite the church. Ardscurr Moat area was very well presented, but try to watch the boundary area, as some litter was evident.

### **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 competition 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 participation in environmental protection and promotion involving

all members of the community and providing access for all. 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 Kilmead 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 the tasks to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, tree planting, information areas, access, etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. The adjudicators also considered, at your request, extended areas. In this regard, grass verges are important habitats and Ardscull Moat provides another important wildlife habitat with its mature trees.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The adjudicators were impressed with the presentation of Kilmead under this category this year. Litter control was quite good, apart from minor sprinklings on the road up from Kelly's.

### **TIDINESS**

Try to paint the fencing opposite the church and also clean up the Kilmead sign at the junction.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

St. Ita's Park was beautifully presented this year, with a beautiful display of flowers noted, and trees are coming on well. The new nameplate was noted at New Line Grove. However, weeds were evident by some kerbs in this park. The new fencing, with pyracantha planted, was noted - well done in this regard. This park is much improved on last year, and there is evidence of a strong effort here; well done to all the residents involved. All that is needed within the park is for some of the premises to paint their fences and just sweep the gravel away.

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

Approaching from Kilcullen, the grass was overgrown at the sign. From the church to the residential estates, road surfacing is needed in parts. Try also to remove weeds and gravel here on the road from New Line Grove Estate. Traffic calming measures on the main road might be considered in years to come - you might talk to the County Council in this regard. Approaching from Athy, a very good presentation was noted on the left hand side with shrubbery and the attractive nameplate. It is also nice to see the use of Irish here together with the symbols on the stone. On the new extensions to the judging, selective mowing is needed to allow for wildlife habitats, while still maintaining a tidy appearance. Good luck, and congratulations on your efforts to consider this.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The general impression this year was very good, and the adjudicators would like to commend the efforts involved,

particularly the efforts made in New Line Grove Estate. Good luck with your plan and the adjudicators look forward to continued improvements to this pretty village.