

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KELLS-KILKENNY**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	201	196

Kells-Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for sending the maps and your plan, both of which were most useful on adjudication day. It is hoped that your Committee is in constant contact with your Local Authority, FAS, your Regional Tourism Authority and other bodies which may be of value to you in implementing your plan. Success in the Tidy Towns Competition does not come overnight and can only be achieved through total co-operation between the Community, and local/state agencies working towards a common objective. Last year you received an in-depth report from the adjudicator. The following comments should be read in conjunction with that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Comments made in last years report are still applicable. In terms of it heritage, Kells is unique and does not receive the accolades to which it is entitled. Do however take note of what the adjudicator said last year regarding dereliction. Kells has some beautiful cut stone houses and outstanding walls which are a feature of the village. Commercial premises in the main were well presented notably Shirleys and the Post Office. The School and the Church were again presented in very tidy manner.

LANDSCAPING

Where presented on adjudication day, flower beds and flowers in pots looked well with evidence of maintenance. Your Committee however might consider some judicious planting of trees and shrubs in the village area. In the event and in the case of the latter, select those which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. The emphasis however is on the word judicious as too much planting causes clutter whereas careful selection will soften the landscape. Should you decide to go this route do contact your Local Authority, Coillte or some person in the locality who may have expertise in this area. Any further plans to provide beds of flowers, etc should take into consideration the fact that these need constant maintenance and therefore the extent of this development should only be in relation to the labour available to deal with maintenance on an on-going basis.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category in the competition with the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. Your Committee should endeavour to identify where these habitats exist in your area and then determine an appropriate approach to their conservation and enhancement. There are guidelines in the Tidy Towns brochure which offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. If however there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your

Community with experience in this area your Committee should draw on their knowledge. Kells is particularly strong in some of these habitats e.g. woodland, hedgerows, open spaces and walls and excellent work is being done on the preservation of your old buildings and your heritage.

LITTER CONTROL

Kells was practically litter-free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned.

TIDINESS

There was a feeling on adjudication day that while a better effort had been made under this heading as compared with last year, that a lot still remains to be done and calls for full co-operation from all concerned. While commercial life has to exist open storage can be controlled as indeed can be open spaces.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Kells has some lovely houses which were very well presented on adjudication day. Many gardens were also excellent. The involvement of private individuals in the Tidy Towns effort is absolutely essential particularly in what effectively is a residential village like Kells. Congratulations are due again to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good. However in some cases the verges of approach roads from the village signs inwards need to be trimmed. Where this was done they did look extremely well. In doing so however please bear in mind that current thinking is that they should not be trimmed right back to the wall or hedge but a certain amount of untrimmed area should be left for the propagation of wildflowers. In other words trimming should only take place roughly half way in from the edge of the road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kells is a unique village which with concerted local effort could do well in the Tidy Towns Competition and in the process and through the rejuvenation of its heritage, attract many visitors with its resultant economic benefit. Continue to plan carefully in line with the State and voluntary services available to you.