

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILFINANE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	27
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	189	185

Kilfinane, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed questionnaire which was accompanied by a detailed map of the town and outlying area. This year your committee has increased to nine which is an ideal number for sharing out of duties. One can see evidence of partnership with other agencies and the social employment scheme is proving very beneficial to the town. As regards a developmental plan, one should be submitted for next year. See the tidy Towns book for details.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Over the years Kilfinane like many other similar towns of its size suffered from an unacceptably high level of dereliction. Great efforts have been made to redress this and one can see that effort is being rewarded. On adjudication day there were a number of renovations being undertaken which is a sign that the community are getting to grips with the problem. The Ballyhoura Centre which houses a number of facilities is an excellent focal point for the town. The public buildings such as the schools, the church and the graveyard were all in good condition; a little more brightness in terms of painting would be welcome. The car park opposite the church could benefit from a cleaning. Overall, suggestions made in last year's report were acted upon. The Education Centre and its grounds were extremely well maintained; this is an excellent facility which contributes so much to the economic well being of Kilfinane and the surrounding area. Commercial buildings such as Sheehy's Centra, The Ballyhoura Inn, Hayes Mountain Dew Bar and the Credit Union Building were all maintained to a high standard. Private dwellings for the most part were also maintained to a very high standard; one particular red sandstone house on the street leading to the Mitchelstown road caught the eye. Unfortunately there were one too many negatives by way of derelict buildings dotted around the town. Suffice to say that the owners of these buildings should be encouraged to refurbish them. It is sad to see such an impressive building like Doherty's Hotel which has a long association with Kilfinane in such a state of disrepair, in stark contrast to the beautifully maintained traditional shopfront of O'Shaughnessy's across the street. Plastic signs are still problematical not much improvement from last year.

LANDSCAPING

Evidence of an ongoing planting programme was to be seen to effect all around the town. All these planted areas were managed efficiently. The Grotto and Sacred Heart garden again were in excellent condition. Shrub and flower beds at the Cross near the secondary school and also at the junction with Galbally signpost deserve special mention. Trees were planted in effective manner around the town but I would question the appropriateness of bedding plants at the base of these trees.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are a number of natural habitats for wildlife in and around the town and these should be treated with due care as part of a conservation programme. Personnel with some expertise in this sector should be consulted to give guidance especially to schoolgoers who in turn could develop a project with a wildlife/natural amenity theme to it. The Education Centre, part of which could be considered a natural amenity, has to be commended for the relative ease of access from all sides.

LITTER CONTROL

The town was reasonably litter free on adjudication day. However, some stray wrappers were to be seen. Overall, a good performance on a day that was extremely windy and not conducive to good litter control.

TIDINESS

There may be a slight lack of appreciation of the efforts of the committee in what the adjudicator has to say under this category. Unfortunately this is an area that Kilfinane is not too strong on. There was far too much weed growth evident around the town and its surrounds especially at kerbsides and wall bases. One could highlight individual areas but that does not serve the main purpose which is to make people aware that a good weed maintenance programme is essential to complement the other efforts. Derelict houses also create problems in terms of tidiness and in this respect the owners of the shop area across the road from Mountain Dew bar on Lr Main street, and the derelict houses on the Ballyorgan Rd should be asked to make a positive contribution by cleaning up their properties at the very least.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard was reasonably good and in general most residents make an effort to keep their holdings in good condition. Forest View on the Kilmallock Rd was very well presented as was Mountain View estate. The Rent an Irish Scheme was also in very good condition. Vale View was disappointing; whilst its tidiness was acceptable, the lack of colour on houses makes the place look very austere. The committee should offer advice on an appropriate colour scheme.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were well maintained and presented to a high standard. The Mitchelstown Rd with its new stone walls was very impressive and the terrace of houses on this road contributed immensely to the overall look with nice gardens and tubs. The Kilmallock Rd entrance had its verges cut and looked very well as did the road to Tipperary. The back road to Ballylanders was also well presented; the grotto gives a nice impressive entrance. Kilfinane has a number of connecting roads and side lanes; these on the whole were clean and tidy and credit goes to those responsible for their upkeep.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of the Tidy Towns committee to involve all sections of the community is laudable. Kilfinane is set in a very picturesque part of County Limerick nestled in amongst the Ballyhoura Mts with the Galtees in the distance. It looked quite well on adjudication day but unfortunately it still has a problem with overall tidiness. Keep up the good work.