

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILMEEDY**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	24
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	159	153

Kilmeedy, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting your completed entry form and plan. It is good that you are planning in a medium and long-term way and each year you should review progress and list out projects that can be tackled by the community and those that need the assistance of other agencies. Unfortunately you have achieved little of your plan to-date, although the environmental works in progress at the cemetery and the hedge cutting observed on the adjudication day are acknowledged. You have a well laid out and a well balanced village with good potential for raising standards in the various sections. Your challenge now is to keep the community actively involved.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is room for improvement here. Many of the buildings throughout the village and the school in particular would benefit from fresh painting of a strong colour. The church and forecourt look well again this year and the Garda Barracks is very well presented. The village layout and the beautiful surrounding topography favour the use of strong colours throughout. This extends to corrugated buildings and roofs - many of which are in need of attention.

LANDSCAPING

You have done well in this section and the many small landscaping projects in hand are acknowledged. Many houses on the Rathkeale approach have worked hard in creating such colour from tubs, flower pots, hanging baskets, etc. This should be extended to other parts of the village. You also have some attractive wild flowers which should be cultivated - usually by leaving them alone. You still have numerous small open spaces that are ideal for the development of flower gardens that would enhance the colour of the village. However, you should only develop extra landscaping if you have the energy and enthusiasm to maintain it.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

To some extent, you are already playing your part in this respect by planting and hedgerow control. Don't trim the hedges too tightly and if you are planting extra shrubs or trees, select varieties that will yield food for wildlife in autumn and winter. You should sponsor a local school competition for a wildlife composition or poster or both.

LITTER CONTROL

The village looked quite free of litter on adjudication day. Litter control around the school and shops is important. Litter bins are of a good quality and are well positioned around the village.

TIDINESS

You have numerous problem areas in this section that will need to be addressed if you are to progress. Many farm gates are in need of replacement and almost all farm gates need painting. It would be very beneficial if the gates were painted a bright colour, because many of them are within the village core. Geary garage should improve the parking discipline and bring some neatness into the forecourt. This would only take a small effort and would improve this important location. Other areas of untidiness relates to unfinished development and some poorly presented boundary walls. Post and wire fencing should, where possible, be replaced with stockproof hedges. The entrance beside the school is very poorly maintained.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of housing and presentation is high and many individuals have worked hard in maintaining their premises to a high standard. This is an area where the Committee can play an important role in encouraging residents to present their premises well. It is obvious that there is plenty of flower expertise within the village and this should be shared by the community.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road conditions are good and well maintained. The front of the school needs surface dressing and this should be done for next year. It is also noticed that you plan the development of more footpaths and this should be pursued. Signage within the village is good and poles have been freshly painted. The Failte go Cill Mide sign is excellent and surpasses the other approach signs. However, you need to contact the local authority for improved signage to the village - especially from Rathkeale. Approach roads were well presented. You also need to retain the rural ethos of the village and consequently do not need long approaches of tightly cut grass margins. You might consider some appropriate street furniture that would add character to the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator found Kilmeedy attractive and well presented. Make sure you preserve the traditional strengths of the village and work to an agreed plan. Good luck for 1998.