

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KELLS**
County : **MEATH**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	194	191

Kells, County Meath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your form, map and 3 year work programme. Though it addresses most areas briefly, it does not mention plans for wildlife development or enhancement. The proposed development of a heritage centre will also bring more visitors into the town who should be encouraged to stay and wander around the streets. This can only be done by presenting premises and a streetscape that are attractive.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the commercial and amenity buildings looked very well. The school was well kept, but the graveyard on the Dublin road requires to be trimmed back. The swimming pool looks well; however, there was some litter and weeds in the gutters and building material needed to be removed. There were also weeds at the base of the wall on this approach. The NE Health Board is well presented and the UDC was fine. The nice red windowboxes set off the Headfort Arms well. There are some nice traditional style shop fronts in Kells e.g. The Medical Hall, Duke Bros. (though a lot of stock on the footpath), Penny's Place (some lovely hanging baskets) and Doyles. Others such as the Fruit and Vegetable shop, Video Box and Motor Factors could consider a more traditional approach. The hanging baskets on Jack's Railway Bar make a good impact. The VEC Factories in the Industrial estate were well presented and had some nice planting. Both the Handball Alley and Garda station were well presented. The heritage buildings in Kells were well looked after - Colmcille's church and the tower looked well. This is the way it should be due to the status of the town and its association with the Book of Kells.

LANDSCAPING

Many areas are well landscaped and the use of floral displays is commended. There is nice planting outside some of the new estates e.g. on the Drogheda road. Carrick street seemed a bit grey and would benefit from some floral displays. Nice landscaping was seen beside Micheal McKeon Motors. Perhaps some wildflowers could be considered for the approach roads - selective cutting of verges would encourage these. The Hill of Lloyd is a fine amenity to have and landscaping here is well done in sympathy with the rural environment. The children's facilities are well looked after.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Wildlife areas have to be surveyed and assessed in the area. The river closeby, the Hill of Lloyd, hedgerow and grassland habitats can be used as areas to encourage wildlife. Throughout the town, the planting of native species which encourage wildlife should be considered. Schools should be involved through biology/nature study classes.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was generally good; however some was found scattered beside the swimming pool, on Butcher Lane, in the grass on the Virginia road, at the bus station and on the Athboy/Trim roads. The Hill of Lloyd also had a scattering of litter. A persistent anti-litter campaign is required to rid this heritage town of litter.

TIDINESS

The town was tidy in the centre and through the estates although there were weeds in the gutters in some areas. Flyposting (circus and election), some building material on the Virginia road and some other weedy areas (such as at the bridge on the Dundalk road) detracted from the overall tidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Kells is growing at a fast pace and is within easy commuting distance of Dublin. Headford Park had the grass well cut back and some small trees. There is great potential in Headford Place for the encouragement of wildlife - wildflowers/birdtables and berried plants would help to do this. Churchview was well kept and some premises had made great effort on Cross Street. Colmcille's Villas looked well. O'Growney Terrace and Fr. McCullen Park had some well kept houses and nice windowboxes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Dublin approach road is well cut back, had nice banner signs heralding the Heritage town and the trees looked well. The road to Drogheda was well kept although there were some weeds in evidence. The stone walls look well. The Dundalk road is reasonably kept, but again there were weeds in gutters. New speed signs were required on the Moynalty road and building material had to be removed from the Virginia road. It was nice to see the streetnames; well done to the sponsors of the signs. The Athboy /Trim roads were fine although there was a scattering of litter and the signs should be kept clean. On the Back Street, the Crossakiel and Oldcastle sign required replacing.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kells is a fine historic town with some fine buildings. Attention to detail is required e.g. weeding of gutters and cutting back of approach roads. The town should prioritise the elimination of litter over the next couple of years. Good luck during the next year.

