

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILTEGAN**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	23	20
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	194

Kiltegan, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed questionnaire and map which was extremely helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of a detailed five year plan. Kiltegan has won the competition in the past, so there is no reason why it can't win again. In this regard, a number of other towns, both in the county and nationally have worked hard to obtain this achievement and it requires more innovation and dedication. The village was looking very well on the day of adjudication. The visibility of the Irish language was in emphasis in this years competition; try to develop this, for example, is there any significance in the name of the village - Cill Tagain.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The challenge for Kiltegan appears to lie in the improvements of its commercial buildings. Some improvements have been noted in this regard, for example, the Hall was freshly painted but weeds in the car park take from the overall appearance. The phone box was freshly painted again this year. The entrance into St. Peters Church was excellent, with trimmed hedging and trees on either side. The Post Office was well presented. Flower tubs on top of the wall by Talk of the Town look somewhat out of place and did not have the care and attention of other flower tubs. Ongoing improvements were noted at Katie Lowes but it was not yet completed and a nice wall was noted adjacent to it, which is new. Briscoes had been painted, well done in this regard.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping in Kiltegan was very good this year with all areas well cared for. The Village Green was excellent with Roses in full bloom. The streets were complemented by well cared for flower tubs, in a neat and litter free appearance and a nice area was planted down from the Talk of the Town. Overall, a very good performance in this section.

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. In this regard, it was good to see a school planting project had gone underway at the rear of the school, but this was not helped, unfortunately, by rabbits. Try to expand on this in years to come, which will generate greater awareness among school children of wildlife. At time of adjudication, one of the wildlife displays had not been put in place; the proposed location may not be the best one. Humewood Estate, with its mature trees offers an important habitat for wildlife, as do hedgerows on approach roads. While the adjudicators recognise that the derelict building on the Baltinglass approach is in itself a habitat, we would not

recommend this as an option for the long term. This section of the report 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 offers 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 these woodlands, wetlands, grasslands or coastal habitats, or other habitats such as urban spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of potential importance. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Kiltegan would include identification of species list of the flora and fauna in the area; preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan; work to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally.

LITTER CONTROL

The overall appearance of litter control was quite good this year; unfortunately, litter was evident at the GAA car park by the tennis courts.

TIDINESS

Try to remove weeds near the tennis court. Weeds were in evidence at the car park of the Hall. Overall, there is a very tidy appearance throughout Kiltegan this year and congratulations to those involved. Try to replace the Fogra/Notice at the entrance to the GAA Park. Surfacing at the entrance to Kiltegan could improve the overall appearance here. Also, one point to watch is to try and minimise the use of sandwich boards.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A very good presentation was noted this year, particularly at the residential terrace adjacent to the Post Office. High Park was well presented - try to reseed the worn grassed area and erect a nameplate incorporating bilingualism. One or two premises still need attention, e.g. Kiltegan Farmhouse.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There was an excellent approach and the adjudicators were very impressed with the standard of maintenance of the approach roads, congratulations on the work involved. The approach from Hacketstown was excellent; verges had been neatly cut, but try to

replace the sign; unfortunately, the planting bed was not yet in its prime. Approaching from Baltinglass, planting noted at the triangle, the fingerpost signs need to be cleaned. Otherwise, an excellent presentation. Approaching from Rathdangan, try to rebuild the broken walls and paint the sign for Kiltegan. While approaching High Park, the Kiltegan sign also needs to be painted. It was good to see Beach hedging planted further out, while resurfacing is needed closer in. Nice shrubbery was noted but try to watch the long grass. Overall, an excellent presentation here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression created by Kiltegan this year was excellent. The adjudicators commend your effort; you have a very strong community involvement which appears almost unanimous in support, apart from one or two areas. Try to concentrate on the area where the truck is parked near where building is taking place and concentrate on the other buildings as well. Slan Libh until 1998.