

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILKISHEN**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	20
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	209	210

Kilkishen, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning the completed entry form. You have outlined your problems which principally relate to a lack of community involvement and commitment. The village has been a high scorer down through the years and the lack of support that may seem evident currently should not take from your success of previous years. The village has many signs of former glory and still retains many attractive traditional features that are deserving of improvement.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The old church on the entrance to the village from Quin is sadly deteriorating and the belfry in particular is now almost derelict. There are some very attractive pillars and gates that retain the elegance of the last century - it is hoped that these will survive and be maintained. The church is well presented again this year but the boundary walls need painting. The Post Office is well presented. Kilkishen Furniture is now shabby and needs repainting. The community centre is unique, but the dashed facade should be painted a bright colour while retaining the brick features. The Hardware Store at the end of the village is below standard and is keeping your marks down in this section. The garage beside the Take Away is a let down - surely the old railwagon could be removed.

LANDSCAPING

You are working hard in this category and much of the work of yesteryear is still bearing fruit. The Quin approach was really well presented on adjudication day and the grass freshly cut. There is a superb rose bed on the main street. The many tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets add colour to the village. Some of your previous landscaping efforts now need refurbishment to bring them up to standard. Some farmgates could add to the beauty of the village if they were painted. Páirc Amaltóin could be much improved if the block walls at the entrance were plastered and painted and the two flag poles replaced. The rear of the Club House is very untidy but the pitch was in magnificent condition. Signage is very good and the fáilte signs are excellent.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your best bet now is to encourage a school project, and have the students list the names of the better known birds and other wildlife of the area.

LITTER CONTROL

This does not seem to be a problem in Kilkishen and there was no evidence of litter causing a problem on a Tuesday adjudication day. Litter bins seem adequate in number and are well positioned.

TIDINESS

You have a problem with badly presented buildings, uncared for open spaces and a good deal of unoccupied houses and dereliction. Nevertheless, the work on whitewashing some of the terraced houses in the main street is commendable. The display map in the village has gone shabby and is coming to the end of its days. The identifying of various items in the village with attractive name signs as gaeilge is praiseworthy. An Chearta is badly in need of painting and should be tackled by the community. The village pump is well presented.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

On an individual basis there are some excellent houses in and around the village. Because of the dereliction and unoccupied houses, co-ordination is weak. Plunkett Drive is well presented, but many houses need to have their boundary walls painted. End and corner houses in strategic locations are really important and can often represent a focal point for the village entrance. Estates are best looked after by a resident group with capacity to motivate the relevant community.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads are good and many have welcoming displays of flowers. The old footpath kerbing on the left hand side from the Quin entrance is a precious remnant from the last century and is deserving of being incorporated into a new improved footpath. A good three to five year plan (preferably a C.A.A.S. plan via the local authority) would highlight such distinctions.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Traditionally, the village is one of the most important in the county. It has several rich features and so many buildings that link it with a previous generation. You need new effort and support from the community. The village is deserving of a resurgence of effort - go néiri libh do 1999.