

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLALOE**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	207	202

Killaloe, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The proposed integrated development plan for Killaloe is a priority with so much development, traffic congestion and increasing visitor numbers on both sides of the river. This should involve input from the local authority and the other public bodies together with the various community interests.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The overall standard of presentation and maintenance of public and commercial properties throughout the town is good. The heritage properties - St. Flannan's Cathedral and Oratory and St. Molua's Oratory in the grounds of St. Flannan's Church are well maintained. Of public and other properties, the Garda Barracks, the East Clinic, the new Kincora Hotel and grounds, the Killaloe Holiday Village, the Convent National School on Abbey Street, the AIB premises, Boru's Craft Shop and the Town Apartments on the Parade were particularly noted. Shops and other business premises along main street, with a few obvious exceptions, are well presented. Some of the premises mentioned in last year's report still need attention. The proposed development of the Old Courthouse is to be welcomed.

LANDSCAPING

The general standard of landscaping is good, especially along the canal bank. The two 'islands' on the Limerick road being landscaped will enhance this approach to the town. Landscaping and incidental planting in other locations throughout the town are improving the overall impression. Some areas (e.g. in the older public housing estates) need more attention - this also applies to the area at the entrance to the Tennis Club.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The emphasis on the natural flora and fauna in the school's environment awareness programme is to be commended. The town's location at the mouth of Lough Derg and the surrounding woodlands and hills offer great scope for a wider focus on the natural environment.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control continues to be good, as a result, no doubt, of additional litter bins and the various clean-ups carried out. The areas along the canal, especially around the car-park, were particularly noted in this regard. However, the area around The Green and Thomas Street and also down Main Street could be improved.

TIDINESS

The overall standard is more a reflection of the litter situation. The Carrick's Lane clean-up tidied up one eyesore, perhaps this might be extended to the other back lanes and entries. Also, the area around the entrance to the GAA grounds could be better maintained.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The presentation of residential properties throughout the town is generally of a high standard, with many beautifully kept houses, both in the town and along the approach roads. (The proposed new bilingual street signs should also be erected at the housing estates).

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The two main approach roads, from Limerick and from Scarrif, could both be improved. On the Scarrif road from opposite the entrance to Ballyvalley House and in to beyond the Kincora Hotel, the footpath needs to be cleared of weeds and the road surface along some of this approach could also be improved. The Limerick road could be improved with more attention to the verges and the completion of work around where the new 'islands' have been built. A big problem for Killaloe is the traffic congestion in the vicinity of the old bridge which is totally inadequate to deal with the volume of traffic (two-way) using it.

GENERAL IMPRESSION.

Killaloe town, with its heritage designation, its riverside location and attractive surrounds, is both expanding in itself and is increasing its appeal as an inland resort. The integrated plan to manage all this development is crucial and should be a priority for the Community Council to ensure a balance as the town grows into the new millennium.