

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CALLAN**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	21	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>183</b>

## **Callan, County Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the information sent with your entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. In 1996 and 1997 you received in-depth reports and the following comments are by way of a progress report which should be taken in conjunction with the two previous ones. Unfortunately many of the problems highlighted in these two reports are still with you and the suggestion regarding the preparation of a 3/5 year plan is still applicable. The adjudicator visited all the sites mentioned in your entry form and on the map and your work in terms of landscaping etc. is to be highly commended. However a lot of problems remain with you which will be commented on further in this report.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

On adjudication day all public buildings including churches, schools, fire station, etc. were again very well presented but the comment in last year's report regarding the tourist-heritage trail is still applicable. There are a number of derelict sites in the town which look somewhat unsightly. In a small community it is very difficult to know how to handle this situation. Perhaps an approach could be made to the owners with suggestions for alternative uses or consult with your local authority who have powers in such matters. In general commercial premises looked well. Many others need a coat of paint. The adjudicator noticed some shop fronts being replaced. Where this is happening please do encourage them to use the old style shop front and not plastic. Also encourage where possible the removal of hanging signs, many of which serve no useful purpose. Where they are required encourage the use of timber and wrought iron in keeping with the architecture of the building concerned and the streetscape.

### **LANDSCAPING**

All the sites marked on your map were visited. Congratulations to all concerned on the amount of landscaping which has taken place particularly on the new by-pass road. The flowers on the bridge looked extremely well as did the new flower beds on the old Kilkenny approach road. However the picnic tables here looked a bit rough. Tree planting here was also noticed. The Grotto looked well but the statue probably needs cleaning. Much more could be made of the pump at the edge of the town near the by-pass road or alternatively perhaps it could be moved to a more central site. Work being carried out on new flower beds etc. at the car park near the river was also noted. The grounds and flower arrangements at the Ignatius Rice centre looked very well. Congratulations are due to the management there. However comments made in last year's report particularly to the area adjacent to the County Council offices and indeed to many other overgrown areas in the town are still applicable. The management

of Tube Rollers Ltd are also to be congratulated on the way their premises was presented this year.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your comments under this heading were noted. Perhaps this is a part of the competition which you might give more attention to for 1999 bearing in mind the comments made in last years report.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Unfortunately, on adjudication day, there was a quantity of litter to be seen in and around Callan. Most of this was in the main street but litter was also evident in many of the side streets. Having arrived in Callan in the morning and having spent some considerable time there, there was still no evidence, of any attempt to clear this litter up. Up to the date of the adjudication the adjudicator regrets to have to say that this was the worst example of litter in any town or village which had already been seen. Callan is probably too small to have a litter warden but something drastic needs to be done if this situation continues. Initially perhaps the provision of more litter bins might help to solve the problem. Litter was also evident in some of the housing estates visited. Top of your priority list for 1999 must be an Anti-Litter Campaign. With all heavy traffic now removed from town there is a wonderful opportunity to improve the ambience of Callan but this will not happen as long as a litter problem exists.

## **TIDINESS**

Many of the comments made in last year's report are still applicable. In general the centre of the town, except for the litter problem, was presented in a neat and tidy manner. The outskirts still do not seem to have recovered from the work which has taking place on the by-pass road and there is a general air of untidiness on the verges of the town particularly in and around the by-pass. The adjudicator would hope that by 1999 this problem will have been solved. As mentioned in last year's report, footpath advertising is still with you and dereliction has been mentioned elsewhere.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

All the housing estates in Callan were visited. Some looked very well. Others are beginning to show their age and possibly need refurbishment. The many terraced cottages in Callan looked extremely well on adjudication day. Open spaces generally looked well, as already mentioned, litter was a problem. In other centres the formation of Residents Associations have become a vital part of the Tidy Towns effort. If you have not already done so you should encourage the formation of such groups and have representatives from them on your Committee.

## **ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS**

As last year many approaches to the town were not well presented and verges needed trimming. In this connection the Knocktopher and Old Kilkenny roads were probably the best. Streets in the town were good and footpaths were generally in good repair. Unfortunately some side streets and roads have open spaces which, in some cases, are derelict and in others are completely overgrown and very unsightly. Perhaps this is an area where you Local Authority and FAS workers can help and, in the event, would greatly improve the appearance of Callan. Comments made in last years report should also be studied.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Other than the excellent work done on landscaping, in general, Callan does not seem to have improved on last year and the litter problem is certainly a disimprovement. With the by-pass now in operation there is a wonderful opportunity for Callan to present itself as the historic town which it is but to do this there needs to be a coming together of all interested parties- commercial interests, private residents, local authorities and interested groups. The secret of success is in planning. Prepare a simple 3/5 year plan identifying what you can achieve realistically each year within your physical and financial resources. Consult also with your Regional Tourism Authority (RTA) representative based in Kilkenny who will come and meet with your committee. The RTA also run a seminar for Tidy Towns committees each year with guest speakers which is well worth attending. The adjudicator looks forward to visiting Callan again next year when hopefully some major improvements will have taken place.