

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KELLS-KILKENNY**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>201</b>

## **Kells, County Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank for all the information supplied with your entry form and the various design sheets which was most useful on adjudication day. Your long term plans are very impressive and it was important to note that you have the full co-operation of your community and your Local Authority. You received in-depth reports in 1996 and 1997. The following comments on your progress should be taken and read in the context of those two reports.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

On adjudication day the church, school, community hall and the premises of Kells handball club were very well presented as indeed were many of the commercial premises including again Shirleys and the Post Office. Some dereliction was still in evidence and the demolished garage at the end of the town and the old petrol pumps were very unsightly on adjudication day. The hope is that this site will have been cleared by next year. You are indeed to be congratulated on the purchase of Mullins Mill for conservation and for conversion to a working mill museum. The installation of the ramp for the disabled was also noted and you are to be highly commended on this. Your other developments and development proposals speak very highly of the calibre of your Committee. You deserve the fullest commitment possible from your local community.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Your plans for 1998 in this respect were also noted. Tubs of flowers, window boxes, etc. where presented looked well but the comments made under this heading in last years report are still applicable. It was noted also in your long term plans that certain sites have been identified for landscaping purposes. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing this happen, hopefully in the next year or two.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You do not appear to have made any significant progress under this heading. Perhaps it is an area that your committee might look at within the context of your long term development plans. The Kings River might be a focal point for such a development. Do take cognisance however of the comments made under this heading in last years report.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Kells was almost litter free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned.

## **TIDINESS**

The village was reasonably tidy on adjudication day. The comments made regarding open storage last year are still applicable. The car park at the castle ruins was very neatly presented. The picnic tables however and the adjoining hut look somewhat weather beaten and could do with a coat of varnish.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The majority of private houses looked excellent and where gardens were presented were in full bloom and a blaze of colour. Congratulations to all those concerned. This is a strong point in the Kells Tidy Towns effort. Continued support under this heading from the residents involved will be absolutely necessary if Kells is to succeed further in the competition.

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

Road surfaces were good. Pathways also were in good repair. However many of the comments in last year's report regarding approach roads still apply. Adjudication normally takes place either from the village name-plate or the speed limit signs, whichever you opt for. Hedges and verges from there on in should be trimmed back bearing in mind that a certain amount of untrimmed area should be left for the propagation of wild flowers.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Progress is being made in Kells and obviously must more ambitious plans are in the offing. However the important thing is to try to identify what you can do on a year to year basis within your physical and financial resources enlisting the support of your local authority, FAS and voluntary groups. Success in the competition does not come overnight but calls for careful planning and implementation over a number of years. The suggestion is that your committee might like to visit other centres in the South East region who have gone through the same process as Kells is, eg. Ardmore, County Waterford, Bennettsbridge, Inistioge, Rossadrehid, South Tipperary and indeed Kilkenny City itself. Meet with the committees there and discuss common problems with them. Keep in contact with your Regional Tourism Authority(RTA) who will also meet with your committee by arrangement. The RTA run a Tidy Towns seminar annually with guest speakers which is well worth attending.