

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILKENNY**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	39
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	241	234

Kilkenny City, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The information on the entry form would seem to suggest that you have concentrated on this year on improving what already exists with some additional development projects. Considerable time was spent in Kilkenny on this adjudication but comments are generally of an overall nature and should be taken in the context of the 1996 and 1997 reports.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Needless to say Kilkenny is to forefront under this heading and great credit is due to commercial and other interests in the city that it remains that way. All major historic sites were again visited including those nominated for awards. It is exciting to note that many shops, now starting up in the minor streets of the city, have adopted the traditional shopfront ethic. Congratulations to all concerned. All the major buildings in the city were extremely well presented including the Thosel, St. Canices Cathedral, Kilkenny Castle, Roath House and the lovely Georgian buildings in Parliament street.

LANDSCAPING

This aspect of the competition continues to be another great strength of Kilkenny City, probably more so this year when the city will represent Ireland in the European "Entente Florale" competition. The number of sites visited are too numerous to mention but the city was once again a blaze of colour with hanging baskets, window boxes, Planters, flower beds and landscaped areas to be seen everywhere. Kilkenny is truly Ireland's "City of Flowers". The landscaping on the bypass and ring roads improves every year adding considerably to the attractiveness of the whole area. Open spaces were again excellently presented particularly in the area of the Bennettsbridge road. The grounds of Saint Lukes hospital were a delight to see.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There does not appear to have been any specific effort made this year under this heading so no site visits were made. However having viewed a number of wildlife habitat sites last year the adjudicator is confident that a high standard has been maintained and the same mark as last year has been allocated. Do give some thought however to this aspect of the competition for future years as it is one which would lend itself naturally to what Kilkenny has achieved both in terms of the built environment and landscaping.

LITTER CONTROL

The centre of Kilkenny was completely free of litter on adjudication

day. Unfortunately there was some evidence of litter on approach roads- mainly Callan, Freshford and Castlecomer roads and in outlying areas of the city, particularly in the vicinity of schools. This is an aspect of the competition which must be continually monitored. It is noted that you have appointed a litter warden and this is certainly a step in the right direction. As mentioned in last years report the approach to Kilkenny city on the Castlecomer road does present some untidy sites which takes away from what is generally one of the best approaches to the city.

TIDINESS

The city looked extremely neat and tidy but comments made in last years report still apply. The number of hanging signs does not appear to have diminished.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

On adjudication day many housing estates were visited including Springmount, Altmonte Park, those entered through Cashel Lawn, Larkfield Avenue, Ardmore, Mellville Heights and many others too numerous to mention or unidentified. These were very well presented. In some cases open spaces did need cutting but nevertheless looked well. Obviously the residents of Kilkenny have entered fully into the competition which is to be warmly welcomed as such efforts are a major plank in the Tidy Towns competition.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

Roads, pathways and streets throughout the city were excellent. The new works at Parliament Street were noted. The cobble locking system looks extremely well. However, in some cases, there was evidence of littering, in some side roads of the main roads entering the city which is again a matter which needs careful monitoring.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilkenny has reached such a high standard in the competition that any adjudicator can only generalise. The whole way in which the city is presented reflects great credit on Kilkenny Corporation and its citizens in general. It is easy to see why Kilkenny city is now the most popular inland tourist centre in Ireland.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/98)

For a city Kilkenny was presented to an amazingly consistent standard. There was throughout the city from the outskirts and on all roads to the centre a general air of tidiness and cleanliness. There were no significant litter outbreaks despite the throngs of visitors, and the kerbsides (apart from a few weeds here and there) looked as though they had just been swept. The grass verges and the approach roads were scarcely possible to fault just as the main public amenity areas. Naturally there were some blips in the standard: eg., some yards and sheds in peripheral areas,

and two or three residential estates. In the city centre it is recommended that a policy be implemented and rigorously enforced to reduce the amount of visual clutter created by superfluous advertising, mainly window stickers on shop fronts. Also, advertising hoardings / bill boards should be removed as they always detract from the respective location. The by-pass will, as the years pass by, become an increasing asset not only in traffic terms but in visual terms, as the prolific planting matures.