

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILBEGGAN**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	11
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>189</b>

## **Kilbeggan, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the tremendous amount of information and map. Your committee and the community have the right approach with links being developed with relevant organisations, the newsletter to create awareness and also local awards to motivate and encourage at local level. Well done to Lockes Distillery in achieving the AIB Better Ireland Award. The plans set out for the coming year are commendable particularly the restoration of the Silver River aqueduct and overflow.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are a number of buildings in Kilbeggan that are well presented. These included: The Black Kettle, the Loft, The Olde Volunteer, Egans, Pharmacy and Nannerys. There was, however a problem with derelict buildings though hopefully through further investment in the village that progress can be made with them. Some of the derelict buildings are painted and some have been let go e.g. on the Mullingar road. The Fire Station looked well and the Health Centre was reasonable. The Burger Shack had some magnificent hanging baskets and there were nicely painted railings at Morans. The buildings in the centre square display some fine architecture and restoration of this area is welcome. The Burmah Garage is well presented and the Church on the road to the canal harbour is very pleasant though some of the trees in this area require maintenance. The schools were satisfactory though the front wall on the Dublin road requires repainting ( it is probably difficult to keep this clean with passing traffic). The Community Hall requires repainting, though the Esso garage further out on the Dublin road was nicely landscaped. The Top Garage and Powerscreen on the Athlone road were well maintained and landscaped, though the school on this side of the village required attention. There were nice floral displays outside Halfway House though do consider the use of native rather than exotic species such as Cordylines. The Galtee Factory was neat, however the industrial estate was poor in presentation though one factory had at least got its grass cut back. Is the undulating area to be landscaped in the future?

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping varied throughout the village. There were some fine displays of baskets and flowers - well done to those involved. One colour or complementary colours would make greater impact. The Tullamore road area, beside the junction of the church and the landscaping at the Clara road was nice. Tree maintenance is required with dead trees e.g. at the residential estate on the Conagh road being removed. The writing and painting designs of scenes on seat, litter bins etc. is very bitty and would look much better if all painted in dark green/black/ navy

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The plans to develop/enhance the marsh area is excellent and links with experts in the area is imperative as work is being carried out. Perhaps a survey of flowers might develop into a leaflet later on though looking at your present work schedule, you have identified many areas of potential which can be worked on. The wildflower embankment beyond the trees on the Tullamore road looked well. The Canal harbour must be a haven for wildlife. Kilbeggan is very fortunate to have such an area close by. Could this be signposted as a picnic area from the main road. There was a table there, and the place was humming with insects and heavy with growth - very pleasant indeed. The stone store looks well too, and this or the house could be ideal as an unusual and different stop off for those who wished to picnic outdoors in the Summer on dry days.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was quite a bit of litter evident on the day of adjudication. This was mainly seen beside the derelict house at the beginning of the Mullingar road, at the River Brosna and in the grass along the road up to the housing estates. Some of the litter bins require painting and mending e.g. outside the school. Your litter campaign in the Tidy Town news was noted and the adjudicators know that it takes perseverance and patience to achieve a litter free village.

## **TIDINESS**

There seemed to be quite a bit of building being carried out in Kilbeggan.. This is good as it shows investment in the village. It will look well when completed buildings areas are landscaped. However, this resulted in quite an amount of rubble, building materials being left about. The derelict buildings, grubby, weedy gutters, and the presentation of some of the litterbins and benches showed a need for improvement in this category.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Some of the residences in Kilbeggan look well. Those on the Clara road were well presented as were those on St. Marys Avenue. Brosna View was more varied though some of the houses had made good efforts with their gardens. There are also some fine houses in the main village square area which are well presented.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The roads approaching Kilbeggan were varied with that from Tullamore being the best. Nice tree planting is maturing well and makes a good impact. The Clara road was reasonable; though the sign for Kilbeggan required cleaning and a prevalent wall required repainting here. The Relic road was not that good, there

was some litter and there were weeds in the gutter. The lay-by on the approach from Mullingar required the removal of sand and a rusty barrel.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The judges are aware that the huge amount of traffic that passes through the village does have an impact. The community should be ever vigilant for litter e.g. the litter beside the derelict area on the Mullingar road should never get to the amount that it appeared. Attention to detail is required with regards to tidiness. Work through the plan and progress will follow.