

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLUCAN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	20	20
Landscaping	40	16	15
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	14	15
Tidiness	20	8	7
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	16
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	133	130

Killucan, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You have a pretty village dominated by the Market house, some fine buildings in the centre of the village and St. Etchens Church. There is also a fine amenity area which has good potential. Set out each year objectives for your own direction. In doing this, there is also a good sense of achievement when points are completed. Good luck with your work programme.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village was divided with regards to the presentation of buildings. The main street area which includes Ennis's was well presented and effort has gone into floral displays, traditional signage and other elements of presentation. Here Ennis Village Store and Bryans looked well. Smyths Spar was well painted. Browns Takeaway, if repainted would also look particularly well; it has a traditional front which is unusual for a takeaway. The Post Office was satisfactory. The two builders yards require climbing plants on their fences to hide the wirescape. Is the market house being restored? It is certainly a fine building. The VEC building requires a coat of paint, however Columba's College is well presented.

LANDSCAPING

The incidental landscaping was nice and will look better as it matures - i.e. bank on the Raharney road and beside the Market house. Hanging baskets looked well out side the Village Store, however other premises in the village could be encouraged to follow suit. The Park/amenity area had only just been cut and the grass obviously had been quite long. It is a fine amenity to have and a plan to either landscape this informally, or to manage much of it as a wildflower meadow should be investigated as possibilities. Additional tree planting should also be considered in suitable sites within the park.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Meadow, and hedgerow habitats are the most prevalent habitats in Killucan. Resource assessment needs to be carried out in conjunction with the local schools of these areas and an enhancement and management programme drawn up. The amenity park area could become a haven for wildlife if properly planned,. Do get advise from those who are knowledgeable in the area such as Conservation Volunteers.

LITTER CONTROL

There was little litter evident on the day of adjudication notably outside Sr. Etchens Church and a few pieces on the Delvin road. Some of the bins did require replacement such as that outside Columba's College and regular maintenance of all bins is required. An annual cleanup day perhaps earlier in the year would help to foster an awareness of the litter situation.

TIDINESS

The village was reasonably tidy. Disused buildings and walls that require painting poses a problem for tidiness. Uncut grassy areas on some of the approach roads also gave an untidy effect.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses varied in their presentation with some of the houses in the centre of the village requiring a coat of paint. There were, however, some superb gardens on the Cloughran road and a very nice house(restored) just down the Rathwire road. Boundary areas should be kept neat and clean.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads again varied in presentation. The approach from Raharney required the cleaning of the speed sign, as did the speed sign on the Delvin road. It is important that all road signs are clear and legible. The Delvin road required cutting back though it is important that selective cutting takes place in order to encourage wildflower to flourish in the hedgerows.. The Cloghran road had a good approach. There are some beautiful stone buildings along this road - it is a pity that some are disused. It was difficult to differentiate between Rathwire and Killucan along the road to Rathwire. The sign on the Mullingar road was very poor and attention is required here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The impression that adjudicators had was that the Committee in Killucan are under pressure. They need more support from the community in order to progress further. Bring in the help of school children and set out specific achievable objectives both on an annual and a longer term basis. The park area should really be taken in hand. Perhaps it could be a millennium project for the community. Best of luck with your work.