

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILKEE**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-98

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1998 | Mark Awarded 1997 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 43                | 43                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 31                | 29                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 29                | 29                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 22                | 22                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 32                | 33                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 12                | 12                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 20                | 19                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 25                | 24                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 7                 | 7                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>221</b>        | <b>218</b>        |

## **Kilkee, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Again this year, your comprehensive submission, accompanied by a copy of the C.A.A.S Report is excellent. The C.A.A.S Report is now your bible and should be tackled on a phased basis over a period. It is highly informative and enables you to look at the overall environmental requirements of Kilkee. Firstly, it should be recognised that a committee of fourteen members could not on its own be expected to implement a programme of such magnitude. Your biggest challenge is to get the practical co-operation of those who own below standard premises, unattended open spaces and pockets of dereliction.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Travelling into Kilkee from the Carrigaholt road, one gets the impression of a small city, rather than a small town. The unprecedented building of houses/holiday homes is nothing short of staggering and one must ask the question, where will it all end ? The imbalance of residential areas against the infrastructure of old and characteristic Kilkee is now glaringly obvious. This presents extra challenges for your committee and for the Town Commissioners. Some of the old properties (i.e. The Convent) are now surrendering front areas to accommodate new residential development and thus the character of Kilkee is changing. However, as a committee you need to continue your efforts within the core of the town, which offers greatest scope for overall improvement. The town has numerous large well presented buildings, especially in and around Circular Road, O'Curry Street, and Pound Street. The Marina Hotel and complex has improved this strategic location and could further improve with some colour by way of window boxes. For the most part caravan and camping parks are well presented, but some have poorly presented access roads to them. You have some very attractive shop fronts that have been maintained in good condition down through the years.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The C.A.A.S report makes some excellent suggestions for improved landscaping in the many open spaces you have. The new housing developments now offer increased scope for further landscaping, but many are taking the easy way out by developing their drive ways with concrete surface in abundance. At least each entrance to the housing estates should be well landscaped and this would give a colourful introduction. The work at St. Sennans well is puzzling - it was more advanced a year ago and the roof now needs attention. The area beside it was being developed on adjudication day. The C.A.A.S report suggests low growing shrubs for the roundabout which should be pursued. The access to the Church from the Kilrush road is very poor. Long-term the large area around the Church should be landscaped and spaces for parking and tree planting developed. The market square area has

improved since the developments of some years ago.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You should concentrate on the cliff walk and try and erect display boards that could prove informative to local and visitor alike.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

You do not seem to have the same litter warden scheme in operation this year. Litter was evident at the end of O'Curry Street. Take-away shops in particular have a responsibility to make every effort that chip bags do not appear on the streets. The litter control at Waterworld is not up to standard. With such a turnover of children and take-away food it is inevitable that a good deal of litter will accumulate, but the management of Waterworld should extend to keeping the area within the complex free from litter. However, in general litter control is good and bins seem to be adequate in number.

## **TIDINESS**

Untidiness comes from many unattended open spaces you have in between streets. The area beside Waterworld is now an eyesore. Pockets of dereliction are causing untidiness and spoiling the good work of many who have their premises in such good condition. Look out for pockets of dereliction on all approach roads and try and tackle same over a period.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The plethora of house building is really changing the layout of Kilkee as expected. The quality of these new houses is good, but many are slow to engage in landscaping, because of maintenance requirements. It would be a pity if, at least, small open spaces were not developed and maintained in and around the new developments. The houses on the Doonbeg approach have some excellent individual effort, but some boundary walls are below standard. The houses facing the strand are well presented and present a good image for the traditional aspect of Kilkee. In general you have done well in this section, but new developers and occupiers will need to play their part in ensuring that new houses are well finished and given some scope at least for landscaping.

## **ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Road surface in general is good, but many hardshoulder areas have rough surfaces. The increase in commercial activity has now led to many heretofore undeveloped side streets being developed. This is commendable, but requires proper development and maintenance. The bread shop beside The Pantry is a good example of side street development. Traffic is now a serious problem for Kilkee and there is little joy in driving down O'Curry

Street. Proper car parking adjacent to the town centre will be required to free up the density of cars on the principal streets.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kilkee is at a cross roads in terms of dealing with the inordinate amount of house building. Yet, the town's core area retains the splendour of this, and the later part of last century. The challenge for you now is to ensure the imbalance between residential areas and infrastructure does not get out of control. Stick to the C.A.A.S. Report and try and do a little each year. Good luck for 1999.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/98)**

Kilkee looked very well on the morning of second adjudication. The town was litter free to a large extent which is an improvement since our last visit. Most buildings are nicely presented although a few need attention and, of course, there is a considerable amount of construction work in progress. Overall the presentation of the built environment is very good. The beach, of course, also magnificent and the foreshore amenity area. The ducting of the wirescape together with the provision of handsome lampstandards along the main streets of the town centre will complete the visual amenity value of the town. No doubt with pressure for development, many of the underdeveloped sites will be developed in the short to medium term future. More than likely these will be developed in a manner sensitive to the town as is the case with most existing new developments. Maloney's Footwear and Drapery shop has a simplicity about it which is quite beautiful, particularly inside the shop. The eventual refurbishment of the façade of the leisure centre with its tiling building material and unattractive plastic canopy is looked forward to.