

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLIMER**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	174	171

Killimer, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Committee of eight who form the Killimer Tidy Villages group continue to work towards the improvement of their village in a very positive manner. Killimer, whilst small in itself, is visited by a great number of people each year by way of the Killimer Ferry and it is important that the impression that they receive is favourable. We note that you work in partnership with Clare County Council, the Rural Resource Development Group and local schools amongst others and this is a good approach as all bodies must be involved in order to progress. However, the most important people of all to get involved are the entire local community. We note that you feel that the adjudication is too early - however, the emphasis now is on year round activity and colour and in a village such as yours where travellers arrive daily, this would be an important aspiration.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Ferry Complex is very well presented and the new fencing from the road was noted here. The Brogue Inn also was well presented with good planting outside. The Texaco Station and shop- Stor Caitlin Ban was also quite well presented but the forecourt could be tidied and swept more regularly. Also, we would encourage the replacement of the plastic shop sign with a more traditional wooden one. The Colleen Bawn Memorial, which is adjacent to the Texaco Station, also needed clearing of cigarette butts etc. from the inner area and perhaps the Texaco Station could undertake this task when looking after their own forecourt. A broken tan plastic pipe is situated next to the memorial and does not seem to fulfil any function that we could see - it would be good if this could be removed. On one of the approach roads the blue and white shrine erected by the Legion of Mary is exceptionally well kept. The stone walls at the graveyard are very well maintained and are an example of how other walls throughout the village should be presented including the rather overgrown stone walls on the left travelling out the Kilrush road.

LANDSCAPING

Planting has been undertaken by the business premises, private houses and the Tidy Villages Committee throughout and is to be commended. The shrub bed near the Colleen Bawn Memorial is very good and should be fairly maintenance free. Actually at the Colleen Bawn Memorial there were some containers for flowers but these were rather bedraggled on the day of adjudication. In view of the circular design of this memorial we would suggest that just one or two good size round stone or terra cotta containers, overflowing with colourful flowers, could be placed here to make a statement. We did not note any area in the village set aside for picnic purposes and in view of the large number of visitors this facility would, no doubt, be appreciated. The Ferry Complex is very pleasant and

again, because shrubs are planted here, should give year round colour and be fairly easy to manage. However, these beds would still need to be fairly regularly checked for weeds. On the Kilrush road the fuschia planting by the wooden fence will be good when it matures. The maturing trees near the housing estate on this road are impressive. At Nolans Cross, the green areas inside the new curbing should now be given attention and also the bank in front of the house on the left hand side. Here some montbretia and wild thistles are in evidence but perhaps some more wild flowers could be planted to make it a designated wildlife area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your area is rich in natural habitats for wildlife and you have a broad canvas to work on of shoreline and rural countryside. The planting undertaken, especially of berried trees such as the Mountain Ash near the housing estate, is beneficial. Whilst hedges and banks further out from the village benefit wildlife by being left in their natural state, nearer the village these should be maintained in a tidy manner.

LITTER CONTROL

In this regard, the beach clean up at Money Point on an annual basis is to be commended, also your involvement of students and school children in this aspect of the Competition. On the day of adjudication there was not much litter to be seen in the heart of the village but there was a sprinkling of same on the approach roads. The Ferry Complex and the Texaco filling station have a number of receptacles for litter and this, no doubt helps.

TIDINESS

As the village progresses in the Competition, any untidy areas tend to stand out in a more obvious manner. Unfortunately, this is the case with the farmyard and farmhouse, which is quite close to the heart of the village. Here the farmyard needs to be kept in a tidier manner and the shed walls given a coat of whitewash; in the case of the house next door, the surrounding wall also needs painting. There is also an untidy gateway into a field, near the roadway down to the Ferry, opposite the Texaco Station. The pathways from the Ferry should be sprayed early in order to maintain these weed free.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties in and around the village (with the exception of the farmhouse mentioned above) are contributing in a positive manner to the Killimer Tidy Towns effort. These, including the housing estate on the Kilrush road, are very well maintained and most have colourful and well kept gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Killimer has two main approach roads and these need to be better maintained nearer the village. Walls, as mentioned previously,

should not be overgrown and banks should be neatly trimmed back. We would suggest that an all out effort be mounted to bring these areas into shape - from then on they will be easier to maintain on a regular basis. The same applies to gates and fencing in general. Signage for the Ferry on the graveyard road needed to be cleaned - other signage was quite good throughout the village. On the day of adjudication there was a woman (presumably a Committee member) washing the yellow and black metal traffic barriers - it is good to actually see Tidy Towns in action !

GENERAL IMPRESSION.

Killimer is progressing and looking well. Whilst there is much work to be done much has been achieved. We would suggest that you try to get more of the community involved in order to speed up your progress.