

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILRUSH**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	214

Kilrush, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for sight of the two studies carried out by CAAS on Kilrush. Also, for the 3 - 5 year plan drawn up by Kilrush Tidy Towns Committee, showing the various Teams put in place, their functions, their aims and their achievements to date. With this excellent organisational and motivational approach it is apparent that Kilrush is a town where most of the community is rightly proud of its heritage and proud of the very good progress made in the last number of years. Congratulations on obtaining a Blue Flag this year. The Maritime Festival was about to commence on the day of adjudication and there was a great buzz of activity throughout the town. A visit was made to the Tourist Information Office where well produced leaflets on Kilrush Heritage Town and the Heritage Walk were dispensed in a very pleasant manner. Whilst there is still a considerable amount of work to be undertaken in Kilrush to realise its full potential, the achievements to date of the Kilrush Tidy Towns Committee, in a partnership approach with other bodies such as Clare County Council and FAS, are to be commended.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The streetscapes throughout Kilrush continue to improve with traditional shop fronts being enhanced or restored (it is good to note that these improvements include the total building - top to bottom - and do not end at the shopfront). The good use of colour throughout is very striking and should be extended to buildings not already involved - in this regard we would especially mention Reidy's Motors on the Kilkee approach and Glynn's Marine Supplies near the entrance to the Marina. It was good to note that Clancy's Sports Store and Gleeson Electrical on Henry Street were in fact being painted on the day of adjudication. The public buildings such as the Library and the Church (newly painted railings) are well presented. The signs at the Community Centre need attention and the upper windows of the Post Office have not been painted since mentioned last year - also, the Fire Station needs attention. Creek Lodge and the Grove B & B were noted as well presented as were the new buildings at the Marina. There are still a number of inappropriate plastic signs in use throughout the town, the most visible of these being the Central Shoe Stores in the Square. As in most towns, there are also some derelict and vacant buildings - those at the corner of Merchants Quay and the old cinema are examples. Proposed action on these in the long term should be negotiated but in the meantime perhaps some camouflage could be carried out - even to paint the gates at Merchants Quay would improve matters. The telephone box near Kelly's victuallers was in a bad state with broken window and very dirty on the day of adjudication - in fact all the silver telephone boxes throughout the town did not look clean and do not fit in very well with a Heritage town such as Kilrush - Telecom Eireann may be able to help. Further out, the restoration of Kilrush Wood Lodge is commendable. The Lifeboat building in Cappa is well presented and the public toilets at the quayside, with

access for the disabled, were noted.

LANDSCAPING

There is some excellent landscaping on the approach roads - on the day of adjudication there was work being undertaken along the Kilkee approach (cutting of grass, painting of seats etc). Ideally this should take place earlier in the year but presumably the very bad June weather delayed matters this year. However, the emphasis should be on year round colour and maintenance - in this regard planting of trees and shrubs are relatively maintenance free. Perhaps some planting of this nature could be undertaken in the off street car park in the centre of the town. The nice planting and landscaping of the area near the Super Valu entrance is to be commended as is the number of colourful and well maintained flower containers throughout the town. The considerable amount of planting throughout housing estates was noted as was the provision of window boxes and hanging baskets around the town. At some of the landscaped areas the seating needed to be painted but in general the impression was good. Some work on paving and landscaping was in progress at the junction of O'Dea Road and the Ennis road on the day of adjudication and upon completion this should improve the area greatly. The barn to the left as you depart the Marina would improve with painting and could perhaps be screened by some judicious planting of trees.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

All the green areas and landscaping contribute to this category and it was good to note that the planting of fruit bearing plants in order to aid wildlife has been a priority this year. The survey of habitats and flora and fauna undertaken by your Wildlife team is very interesting and they have identified a number of areas where projects may be undertaken in the future.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control appears to be quite good in Kilrush and appropriate litter bins, strategically placed throughout the town were noted. The assistance in this area that you have harnessed appears to be successful. There was a sprinkling of litter evident on the road leading in to the play area in Cappa.

TIDINESS

Kilrush was mostly tidy but there were a number of areas needing attention. One of these was the top of the car-park where the re-cycling bins are located - this area and surrounds was quite untidy. Also, there was an untidy yard opposite the Glen housing estate and there were two untidy spaces at each side of the Scatterry Island Centre (perhaps work is in progress here but this was not evident). Further out this road an abandoned car should also be removed. It was good to see a person who is obviously employed to continually sweep and clean around the town in operation on the day of adjudication. Mostly the town and approach roads were weed free

but some spraying of weeds could take place at the quayside by the Marina earlier in the year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most private houses and houses in estates throughout the town are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort through good maintenance. However, it is important to note that the surround walls and gates of houses should also be painted as well as the houses themselves. These comments apply to Cappa as well as Kilrush.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surfaces in a number of areas need attention and the speed and town signage throughout could be freshened up. Also, where there are a plethora of signs to various B&Bs etc these should be rationalised. Some laneways and back areas should not be ignored especially the road to the Scattery Island Centre which is at the rear of the Marina buildings. Road surfaces are also quite poor in Cappa and immediate attention to the road surface to the play area would be recommended.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As in our introductory paragraph we would re-iterate that Kilrush is a town that is improving yearly and knows where it wants to go. Attention to detail is important and all work that has already been achieved should be maintained each year as well as undertaking new projects. We look forward to the further progression of Kilrush in the Tidy Towns competition.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/98)

Kilrush looked exceptionally well on second adjudication also and litter control was indeed very good. All the flower displays were in full bloom and this together with brightly painted buildings gives the town a very colourful and cheerful appearance, particularly on a grey summer's day. Most buildings looked well, one or two important buildings, in terms of their location, are in need of attention. The best example being Reidy Motors. The entrance to the town from the Lahinch Road was spoiled by the dirty Heritage Town sign and a town sign in need of refurbishment. The landscaped area at the junction of O'Deas Road and the Ennis Road look beautiful with its soft and hard landscaping. Stands of Montebretia and Foxglove on the approach road by the Scattery Island Centre give interest and colour.