

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>221</b>

## **Kilkee, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Kilkee is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application and additional information and map. All were very helpful during adjudication. The amount of building work that is ongoing in Kilkee is quite amazing. There is obviously a co-ordinated approach to the management of Kilkee. A number of groups with which the Tidy Towns Committee liaise is admirable. It is good to know that you are implementing the plan prepared for Kilkee by CAAS. It is also good to note your efforts to raise public awareness by a series of public meetings of the need to preserve the best of the environment. You are obviously aware of the difficulties that large-scale development can bring as well as the benefits and the planning review group are very active in this regard.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

It is good to note the redevelopment around old Moores. Both Merton square and Wellington Square are looking quite splendid. The Kilkee Thalso Therapy Centre is a very fine example of a new and sensitively designed shopfront. This will be considered for the Best New Shopfront Award. The Marine Hotel Complex looks well. A number of properties on the Circular Road could be painted to 'freshen' their appearance. The church and its grounds are very well presented. The new Kilkee Bay Hotel and its associated areas and buildings are much admired.

### **LANDSCAPING**

A number of green areas on the outskirts of the town are not being well maintained, for example one across from the school and two others marking the entrance to Marian Estate. Green areas along the shore look quite splendid with their nicely painted seating, however, the green area beside the Water World premises was overgrown during adjudication. No doubt when all the adjacent construction work is completed, this area will be maintained to a high standard. Another nearby green area needs to have its enclosing wire and post fencing repaired or replaced or planted with hedgerow (located at the bottom of Erin St.). More could be achieved for the presentation of the square under this heading. During adjudication, there were a few flower tubs, none of which were in bloom. Avoid flower displays in favour of more permanent planting such as trees and shrubs and do be careful to choose native species.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Congratulations on being requested by the new primary school to help in implementing a Green School Policy. Congratulations also on your activities regarding the Victoria Stream. It is good to note that action has been taken by Clare County Council to remedy the situation. Perhaps the schools could be encouraged to become involved in a wildlife project. The development of a wildlife garden might be appropriate. The cliff walk is a valuable heritage and its associated wildlife a valuable experience.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was very good, however there was a problem along the esplanade during adjudication. This was due to the fact that an open top bin here had not been emptied recently (although bins had been emptied during adjudication in the rest of the town) and the contents of this bin were scavenged by birds. This was the only lapse in litter control but as the day was quite windy, papers from this bin were making their way up into the town.

## **TIDINESS**

The centre of the town was quite tidy but many sites away from the centre were under construction and as a result of this there was a lot of untidiness. It is hoped that when all of the building work is finished that all building materials will be removed. Some areas around the small harbour were a little untidy, greater maintenance in this area would be appropriate.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

St. Patrick's Terrace needed some treatment to some roadside boundary walls. Many residential properties along the waterfront, e.g. Strand Line and the Esplanade are in need of treatment to their boundary walls. The terraces of cottage along Chapel Street had been beautifully painted and looked exceptionally well. Overall, a fine performance under this heading.

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

Be vigilant regarding the presentation of street furniture and of course roadside kerbs. The roadside edge to St. Senans GAA Club could be improved. Remind property owners of the need to maintain side and rear areas of their premises when these can be viewed from the public realm. Well done on recent work accomplished under this heading.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kilkee is a handsome town which many examples of fine Victorian architecture and of course, the town enjoys a magnificent location. Its wonderful ambience is somewhat (temporarily) lost due to the extent of redevelopment activities.

We look forward to repeat visits when the work has ceased and the fruits can be enjoyed.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/99)**

The busy seaside town of Kilkee showed evidence of much construction work and activity on a second adjudication day. This adjudicator noted that quite a few changes have been made since last visiting. Do try to maintain the unique character of this seaside town. Buildings throughout were generally well presented on adjudication day. In particular Nolan's Butchers in yellow and Egan's Marble Bar were greatly admired. Some litter was evident by the Pollock Holes and a lot was strewn outside the Amusement Arcade at the roundabout. However, considering the number of visitors in the town the standard of litter control was generally quite good. In terms of tidiness a boundary wall at the Railway Road junction looked extremely grubby in its prominent location. The concrete post and rusty wire fence referred to by the first adjudicator looks most unfortunate, indeed this has been here since this adjudicator last visited the town a number of years ago. The picnic benches and open space by Ocean World were fine on second adjudication day. The new Ocean Cove Hotel and Waterworld at this end of the town have certainly made a difference. The Kilrush approach looked somewhat neglected and overgrown, perhaps this is due to the ongoing construction work taking place. Do ensure not to forget gable walls when considering presentations of buildings as there are numerous streets and hence junctions throughout the town making these all the more obvious. In general the town looked well on second adjudication day. But as mentioned previously do ensure the maintenance of this town's unique character and seaside heritage.