

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILCUMMIN**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-1999

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1999 | Mark Awarded 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 33 | 32 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 26 | 25 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 26 | 26 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 25 | 24 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 12 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 19 | 19 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 23 | 23 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 192 | 188 |

Kilcummin, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator is pleased to note that you are involving other local organisations and FAS in your Tidy Towns work. Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups, the County Council and other agencies. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme should detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan which is updated annually is now an important aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition. The new Tidy Towns Handbook, which has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees, is a highly useful document which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets which together cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for your committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The work which you have done on the Cemetery front wall is noted. However the rear and side concrete walls remain to be painted. The Church which is an attractive building is being well maintained as is the landscaping of the grounds. Likewise the School and grounds are being well cared for, and it is noted that work is to start shortly on the old school. The Nursing Home is a pleasant area being well kept. Your Rural Development Office is an interesting building with the top half in stone. Note however that not all stone buildings now plastered were intended to have their stone on view. The Mass Rock is now an attractive feature of the village - perhaps a plaque or sign explaining what a Mass Rock was would be of interest to visitors. Is it possible that a new use can be found in the community for the old Church. It is a pity to see the building closed and apparently unused.

LANDSCAPING

Your Millennium project is noted and the adjudicator hopes to see progress on this next year. When you are selecting your trees and shrubs keep the needs of wildlife in mind, and select appropriate native trees if possible. The plans for the Amenity Area in the centre of the village were examined in the Church porch. This is a major project which will greatly enhance the village and provide a central focal point. However landscaping should be considered as part of a long-term planned process. It should not be carried out in an unplanned way. Trees are a key aspect of the landscaping process. Get professional advice if you are planning to plant additional trees. Planting the correct species of tree(s) in the correct place is of crucial importance. Remember not to plant trees too close to buildings, or to plant trees which are too close together. Remember

also that any shrubs which you plant should complement any trees which you have, and not detract from them. Finally consideration must be given to the annual maintenance and management of your landscaping.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is noted that you are planning a brochure on wildlife and this is to be encouraged. Try to develop further amenities which will encourage wildlife to your area. Your first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. Wildlife can be encouraged by the planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs. The provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings might also be considered by your Committee. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly signposted. Remember the access needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to your area in the years ahead. Has your Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area? The entrance to the Woodland Walk did not look very inviting.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control on the day of adjudication was good. Your plans for litter bins are noted as is the can collecting programme which is a good idea. However make sure that new litter bins can be emptied on a very regular basis.

TIDINESS

At the Village Inn the concrete wall parallel to the main road in the Car Park should be painted. The clean up of the Mass Rock looks very well. Generally the village was quite tidy on adjudication day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses are being well maintained and some very good gardens were noted. The use of brave strong colour on some houses is to be welcomed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The cut stone village name sign on the Killarney approach looks well as do your speed limit signs which appear to be new. On the Farranfore and Gneeveguilla approach roads further work is necessary on the banks. When dealing with banks and verges do keep in mind the needs of wildlife and try to avoid cutting during nesting time. At the time of adjudication the Mass Rock road was being re-surfaced.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilcummin is a pleasant village where a lot of good Tidy Towns work

is being done quietly. Getting your Tidy Towns Plan under way will guide your future work. Well done on what you have achieved to date.