

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILCOCK**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	26
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	21
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>167</b>

## **Kilcock, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your completed entry form and development plan for improvements to Kilcock environs. The report is a bit succinct however, the development plan does very clearly highlight the strategies and objectives and extent of works being carried out in the town and for this the committee must be complimented. Perhaps the map is a bit too general but is sufficient for overall adjudication. It would be recommended that perhaps a larger scale might be able to highlight specific works throughout the different years. It is noted the significant amount of signs in reference to the incinerator and there is quite a strong theme developing around the town over this potentially hot issue. The Sli Slainte was not investigated, however, it is noted that it is not actually on a loop system and consideration should be given to developing it as this, so as to increase diversity for the pedestrian.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Change is happening to this small town and at present most of it seems to be focused on the direction of traffic. The traffic plan layout seems to be working very well and definitely seems to be bringing a more dynamic use to the square. The bridge which is quite a large project in the centre of the town is very well finished and will require a certain amount of large scale landscaping features integrated more successfully so that it does not dominate the character of this part of the town. All schools are very presentable and there was some strong colour used in some of them. O'Briens looked very well though real flowers would have been more lively than the use of silk ones. The Medical Centre definitely needs planting to integrate it with the other aspects of the road it is adjoining. The Credit Union is a reflection of the potential that new works can have on the square; however, it is in the square that the built environment requires the most treatment even if it is only a newly painted building, of which the shop is one example. It is understood that there is a plan for the square and perhaps this should be lobbied for so that a central park is created for the town.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is a definite need for structural planting throughout much of the newly upgraded roads in the centre of the town. The roundabout will look very well in a couple of years time when plants mature. The Committee must be complimented for these works. The graveyard is very presentable, however an overall plan is needed to tie the

two portions of the town together. The new streetscapes make a safer pedestrian environment but there is a definite need for much stronger colours to freshen up the whole place. The Committee should focus on specific areas at this stage and accept the long term efforts that are going to reward the town in future years.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This category is not outlined in any detail in either documents and requires a strong direction. This aspect has great potential in directing selection of trees, improvements to habitats and encouragement of educational activities. This should be addressed in next year's statement. The plantings in the church by the graveyard were a very good display of different types of more native plants and flower and perhaps this type of method should be examined for other areas of the town.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This is very mixed and should be addressed much more thoroughly. The square is a very poor example, not because of large pieces of litter, but because of the very small pieces that get wedged into the road surface and these do require cleaning off. Again litter control is quite poor opposite the church and beside bus stops.

## **TIDINESS**

Actions are definitely happening in this town to improve the tidiness and presentation. The new works carried out in the town recently really do require the attention from the Tidy Towns Committee to revive the charm that such small villages have. Again the aspect of colour might be useful in exploring.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are many different scales of size of residential areas in Kilcock and very often they are dependent on the presentation of gardens as can be seen on the more mature estates such as Abbeyfield which has very good colour at the entrance and Pine Wood Lawns. It is not known what the earth is for, but it is presumed for more planting beds. Royal Meadows perhaps needs more trees. Highfield did not seem to have a sign at the entrance into the area and as such was difficult to locate.

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

In general, given the extensive amount of road improvement this category should be going up, however, at present it has been reduced by one mark because there is greater attention required for the presentation of the kerbs and dirt

collecting on them. Perhaps the major reason why this category has come down is as a result of the Square, though it may not have monies of a significant portion, it could do with colour, planting or just some simple planted areas.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The layout of the new traffic plan is making the square a much more important feature in the town and this should allow for bringing change to this part of the town. The new bridge is quite a large feature and will require landscape treatment to integrate it with both sides of the town. In general, given the pace of improvements this town has some significant potential for improving the overall environment.