

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILCULLEN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	33
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	21
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	200

Kilcullen, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form which was very informative on local issues and well backed up by the information comprising the three to five year development plan. After reading the information, one is very well informed and aware of the background to issues being tackled by the Tidy Town's Committee. This is a very good package and has a strong element of authority. The fact that major works to infrastructure are in place does not take away from the judging point of view and as such adjudication overlooked some of these current events. It must be stated that a brief synopsis of all this information, to highlight specific issues that should be looked at in the particular year, should be provided if so much written material is going to be included in the entry. The News Letter is a very good means of stimulating support, given the extensive amount of material that is reviewed nationally during this competition. The basis of this report is a very high standard and should be used as a basis for many other towns and villages.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Current development pressures on many towns outside of the Dublin area has become a problem which arose for many towns during this adjudication year but this should not affect the general adjudication process as one is specifically looking at items that have been tackled during the recent year. It is noted that parking is a problem and it is wearing out the footpaths. This does need to be controlled and must be handled locally. Cleo's and Bardons are both very presentable. Perhaps the bridge should be tackled as it is an important connecting feature between the two sections of the village and also serves as a winter park as it is exposed to sunlight during most times of the day.

LANDSCAPING

There is a very detailed document on the riverside park that should allow for future progress to be easily achieved when works are finished to the river. Letting the grass grow long on the slopes of the open spaces near Moanbane Park is a very pleasant contrast to the manicured lawns. The extensive landscaping details along the riverside park such as the canoe boarding feature is very well considered and nicely appointed. Perhaps some planting should be carried out in the car parking beside the bridge so as to terminate the axial view down the hill and enforce traffic to turn onto the bridge.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildflower areas on the Naas Road/Curragh Road are very good and should be extended and do not seem to have been very damaged by current roads works. Of particular merit is the swaith of orchids on the entry into the town. This is a very successful planting arrangement and quite interesting too for examination. This aspect should be seriously looked into for use in many other parts of the town.

LITTER CONTROL

There are quite a number of litter sources along the main street and in general litter control has been very effective, however, there is quite a high volume of traffic and this in itself makes the task more difficult.

TIDINESS

The main street was tidy though parking must be better controlled as this removes any potential visual gains created out of either litter control or new plantings. Moanbane Park was very tidy as were the entry roads. At present is it understandable given the level of truck traffic, that the road surfaces are difficult to keep tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Logstown has a very pleasant roadside treatment and works well with the tennis club plantings. A lot of the residential areas seem to have been hit by the new sewage works but they were still very accessible and provided a good understanding of the character and attention to the open spaces. Moanbane Park and Bishop Rogan were both very presentable, particularly along the main road into the town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The street trees with guards along the Athy Road seem to collect a lot of rubbish and as such become quite poor visually. Perhaps this mesh should be removed as the trees seem to be mature. The road to Ballymore Eustace has very good plantings and they are very well cared for.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The development plan work stresses some very active tasks that will have great long term potential. The town must decide a policy towards wildlife if it is going to tackle the areas of satisfied grass mowing which at present provides a very pleasant and visual character. The Naas Road still has the appearance of national primary and

suburban treatment. This possibly should be re-examined as should the landscape management of the adjoining spaces. Though the current works did not impact on marks in the previous categories, it would be wrong not to reduce the general impression of this category for this year because of the impact, and as such there is only a minor drop, but this is seen as a temporary issue. One looks forward to the effective outcome of many of the points raised in the development plan. On a last note it should be recognised that the map that was submitted indicates nearly all of the town under supervision by the Tidy Town Committee. It is perhaps more important to just isolate particular sections of the town that are relevant to the particular year so that the adjudicator can review his strategy rather than the overall scale of the town.