

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILDANGAN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	22
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	18
General Impression	10	4	4
TOTAL MARK	300	157	150

Kildangan. County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you very much for your completed entry form. Though a bit light on information it was well backed up by the Tidy Towns action plan. The action plan was very helpful in highlighting the particular issues that are current. However, it must also address the need for a long-term plan and make mention on how each category is being handled during each current year. The maps are very informative and describe the physical layout of the village. Perhaps next year should see a more comprehensive plan and this could be backed up with further plans and photographs taken during the different seasons.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The window boxes in the houses are a very strong added benefit to establishing a theme throughout the village. It is a very good idea to have the children planting these as it increases the scope of such actions, not purely physical but also educational. The Bridgeside cottages look very well and though at present are quite new, the recent landscaping will help set them away from the road environment. The school and church were very well presented and there is a lovely atmosphere created by the mature planting surrounding these structures. The community hall benefits from the flower boxes as does the post office and Cross Keys pub. In general the built environment is quite a small aspect of the village as development is quite spread out and at present the railway really does create quite a barrier between the different ends of the town.

LANDSCAPING

This aspect of the competition serves Kildangan very well given the very good maintenance to many of the spaces and a definite outcome of the effect of the Committee which is of a generous size for a village of this population. With the development of a three to five year action plan, perhaps consideration should be given in trying to tie together the different components of the village with much stronger structural planting of trees and less diversity of species so that there is greater unity through the village. The village is more formed through growth process along a main road rather than around a central feature such as a square. Most landscape spaces are quite linear which requires a different type of landscape approach. There is extensive works being invested in very short term landscape features and consideration should be given at this early stage towards planting of long term plants. One area that significantly requires such treatment is at the junction of the Athy road which is quite a different character from the entry sequence beside Kildangan

Stud.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is noted on the attached map the proposed area has been set aside for the development of a habitat beside the river. This is located in an effective area as it has good relationship with the activities of the village. The planting of trees and hedges must be complimented however, it is a pity to see the removal of a hedge near the junction of the Athy road. It would be hoped that this particular category would be expanded upon in the development plan as it may direct the selection of particular species. It is noted that there is a high use of foreign plants and perhaps employing more native plants that reflect the surrounding countryside would better integrate the village into the landscape setting.

LITTER CONTROL

There are very few sources for litter to become a major problem in this village and as such the standard should be quite high. The telephone box at the entry of Castle Park has litter around it but the bin beside it was being used and thus there is possibly a need to ensure that the message gets out for the use of such facilities.

TIDINESS

This category often deals with the extent of maintenance and presentation throughout the entire village and how particular areas are handled. In general the layout of the village is such that it is divided by the bridge and this allows the development of different types of presentation. What is needed in this category is an overall approach as to how the village must be presented and focus on specific theme aspects. It is important not to make maintenance the central issue of the Committee. On the day of adjudication the entry from the main Athy road was quite poor with the extent of hardcore, however, this is only a temporary issue and no doubt improvements to this area will be made.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Bridgeside Cottages are very new and hopefully will settle into the new setting. At present there is the need for greater screen planting to separate these cottages from the main road and to integrate this site with the linear theme that is so apparent in other parts of the village. Perhaps more trees at the entry area and the development of newer hedges along the stone wall could improve the integration of these new works. Castlepark looked very well on the day of adjudication and there was great colour provided in many of the gardens. Killbeg Estate looked very well and unlike other parts of the village, has a central focus space that should be integrated with the front gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces in Kildangan are very good and greatly aid the pleasant setting of the village. There is a need for greater definition at the roadside edges particularly near the main road along where the redbrick walls are. It would seem that the bridge needs traffic calming and this is a very difficult task to achieve. However, with the community hall and other quite close entry points, it would seem that safety is easily compromised by the fast traffic which was noted. Kildangan Stud provides a very strong entry, however, the entry from the Athy road needs a much stronger statement as it is very easy to pass by the village. Perhaps new name signs are required.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has a pleasant character which as yet does not have a strong urban centre point. Thus the main focus on this village is the landscape setting and how it must relate to its surroundings. As such, there is a greater need to develop a strong theme that will tackle the presentation of the village through landscape features and management. This should be addressed in the development plan. The commitment by the Committee to being involved in the competition is clearly seen and hopefully a more strategic action plan will aid in greater support to achieve the goals of the Committee.