

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILL**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	38
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>236</b>

## **Kill, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the entry form which is very informative on current issues on the village. There is a need to have a three to five year plan and, though it is understood that there is a difficulty because of the ongoing building and road works associated with the Kill area, the preparation of such a plan is even more urgent given the impact of current development. Essentially such a document is important for lobbying purposes and getting the people to agree to particular strategies. Given that the development plan is a mandatory requirement within the competition, it is unfortunate that results in a drop in marks in this category. However, preparation of the document for next year should ensure that this will only be in the short-term.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The post office looked very well with its hanging baskets and pleasant colour scheme. The Ambassador Hotel is a very important building given its proximity to the national primary route and presents a very satisfactory image of Kill to the passing motorist. The church and new facility are looking very well and the new access road to the car parking for the church opens up a new dimension for displaying this particular building. It must be stated that the new works at the church will have a great impact in relieving the load on a very dangerous junction. The cars are well hidden from all roads which maintains the village character at this location. The national school is pleasant but could do with more creative approaches to its presentation. The new footway on the opposite side of the road with the roll on kerb is a definite improvement for the safety of students. It is noted that there is quite a high level of cyclists in the village and they should be catered for. The litter bins are well located and have a good colour scheme.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Kill opens onto a main road that connects both ends of the village and a central junction. As such this major backbone of the village is very well presented and has a diverse range of landscapes and different forms of treatment with plants. All areas are handled to high standard and produce a diversity of scale and colour which allows the various types of buildings to be easily integrated into a unified pattern. It is perhaps the scale of the tarmac areas that need to be addressed so as to reinforce the rural character of this village. Harkwell Road has a very good display of roses and looks very well on the axial view down the road towards the spire of the Church of Ireland. Lawn areas opposite the school and church are tended to a very high standard and

the hedge at the rear is very well trimmed. Grass edges all along the main street are very well manicured and the committee must be complemented on not spraying with weed killer to control this type of edge growth.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This category must be handled in a much more positive fashion and address issues that are immediate to the town such as tackling the issue of plant selection in the amenity spaces. It might be a useful long term policy to replace some of the ornamental trees/shrubs with other species that support more varied fauna. This category must be covered in the development plan.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This category could be handled with an element of better control. However, all litter bins were empty and there was relatively little litter around the main street. Areas that need careful attention would be Clarendon Court and the main junction. Essentially there are not many sources for litter to originate from in this village and control should be to a higher standard.

## **TIDINESS**

Clarendon Court could be much more pleasant but the ground surfaces are quite worn and perhaps could have a sharper image if the parking lines were painted back and repairs carried out to the roadside bollards. St Patricks Park had a number of crooked lamp-posts which need to be straightened. However, for the most part this town scores very high in this category.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Glendara is very well presented and is lush with trees. St. Patricks Park had an excellent presentation of the amenity grounds with a great range of planting treatments. Perhaps ivy should be considered for the surrounding walls as these may offset the depressing finish of the walls during the winter season. Grass cutting is to a high standard and would seem to be always cleaned up. The Gables has a wonderful green that borders the main street and all residents must be commended for ensuring that the type of edge fence is maintained to such a high standard as this type of fencing system has failed in so many other residential schemes. Although Earls Court is still unfinished, the consistency of tree type selection should prove very effective in future years.

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

Roads in St. Patricks Park are quite poor as is the junction at the centre of the town. The Failte Sign at the entry off the national primary road beside the Ambassador Hotel may be compromising the safety of motorists with the Failte Sign as this junction is quite unsafe even at the best of times. The white painted stone on the nearby grass verges is effective in presenting a village character and is easily painted. Though the surfaces of the main street have a range of varying standards, the overall presentation is quite high and repairs are effective.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kill is a very pleasant village which has a unified theme. This is a very important aspect of Kill and can be further built on. Consideration should be given to the contents of the three to five year plan as it can have strong lobbying potential and so ensure consistency within the village environment.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/99)**

Whereas the map submitted proved most useful during adjudication some colour highlighting would have been helpful. A few papers were to be seen blowing about in front of commercial premises. Every effort must be made to rid such premises of window stickers and other superfluous advertising devices to avoid an image of clutter which conflicts with the simply presented natural environment generally. In particular the mix of mature and young trees was admired. The grassed areas were noteworthy in that they all appeared to have been cut at the same time. The dense planting around the pump at the Killeel junction is most effective. The residential areas were again for the most part presented to an exceptionally high standard but here and there kerbside weeds were unfortunate. Clearly most residents of Kill are very proud of their village.