

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILMEAD**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	201

Kilmead, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form which was very explanatory in the efforts being taken by the Committee. The accompanying action plan is very well laid out, however, it should be seen as a single document separate from the entry form. The plans are very good in explaining the extent of area under development by the Committee as it covers an extensive area of land.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This category is not as important to Kilmead as other villages and towns because of the extensive area that the village covers and most of the built environment is single houses on isolated lots. Therefore, it's the rural setting that becomes so important. The linking of the colours of the school with the church is a very effective approach to consolidating a central feature within the area of the village. The associated car parking with the church is very pleasantly displayed. The use of a single colour to unify all elements is good here. Kellys shop looked very well and took note from last year's adjudicators comments in using less posters on the frontage. The associated planting added great colour to this vicinity.

LANDSCAPING

This is an important aspect of Kilmead given the scale of lands encompassed by the Committee. It is perhaps important to note that the extended areas are difficult to consolidate through any single approach because of the sheer scale of works that would be involved and as such, a theme should be developed to connect the various parts of the village. However, it must be noted that there is an excessive use of foreign plants being used throughout the various areas and this makes the village look rather suburban. This is particularly evident through the overuse of the cupressus plant. The roses at the church looked very well with a very strong display of colour. This is not often seen within church environments and creates a very strong image. St. Ita's and Grove Estate have very good maintenance programmes associated with the amenity space and must be complimented on the effective attention to detail. The works carried out at Peoples Park are very extensive and represent a significant effort by the Committee and make for a very interesting project that will mature into a much needed amenity. Again it should be noted a greater use of native plants could aid in establishing initial structural plantings which would provide further integration with the surrounding landscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is an important category for Kilmead because of its context to the rural countryside. Though a strong emphasis has been mentioned in the action plan there is greater need for this category to expand into the private gardens. The development of the new nature walk at New Line Grove is a significant action which will have long term benefits and it is hoped that it will serve as an example to illustrate how new works can connect with the surrounding landscape setting. It is important to recognise that many old graveyards contain significant seed sources of indigenous plants and care must be taken to ensure that this seed resource is maintained. The works to the graveyard must be commended.

LITTER CONTROL

There are very few sources of litter in Kilmead and as such there should be no problem of litter control in the village, as there are very few shops. On the day of adjudication there was a very high standard.

TIDINESS

The overall setting for Kilmead is one of a very maintained and greatly cared environment. The new works such as the levelling of clay in front of the County Council railings and direction of cut stone wall at Kellys corner are positive actions towards ensuring that the overall environment is tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a very strong emphasis on presentation for all residential developments within the village. Many of the gardens are very effective in presenting a village character. St. Itas Park is well displayed with good roadside colour and the safety fence is well maintained. New Line Grove has a different character but again has good central display of flowering shrubs. There was some litter flung around the place, but this did not detract from the general appearance of great care. The treatment plant is very well screened and presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All grass kerbs along the entry roads are very well cut. The grass needs to be taken away; although this may only be a problem because the grass had just been cut before the adjudicators arrived. The entry road of the main Athy Road is very well maintained and the new trees will serve as a long term investment for the village. Some of the minor roads leading into the village have very pleasant hedges

and wild flowers which provide a very gentle transition between the rural space and the village. The preservation of these areas must be commended.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

General impression of Kilmead is of a collection of small residential developments surrounded by a very strong rural environment. At present most of the character is derived from highly maintained gardens in that there is a greater need for integration with the surrounding landscape. This aspect has recently been dealt with through the planting of recent trees and this approach should be continued and extended into many of the other spaces so that a more gentle theme of landscape integration is developed throughout the village.