

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILTEEL**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	183	177

Kilteel, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the entry form and three year plan. The entry form was very informative on local issues and quite succinct on current concerns. The development plan needs to be expanded to provide background as to why certain works are being proposed and what are the long term benefits. This is important in Kilteel as so much of it relies on the future presentation of the private residences along the main road. Of note is that there is no mention of wildlife and how it might be better integrated into the efforts by the Committee. The Committee must be commended on the clear and easy statement of the proposed works and programme and its very legible format. Try to ensure that it is provided in a separate document for next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is very little built environment in the village, rather the village is a long stretch of ribbon development along the country road. All houses are very well constructed and have beautifully presented gardens, most being quite set back from the road and as such present minimal contribution to the built environment. The village centre is pleasant and the change in grade between the road and the public building and public house serves to reinforce this base as a central area. The church is most charming and quite unusual for its design in this region.

LANDSCAPING

Kilteel is in a wonderful location for views over the Liffey valley and back into the Wicklow mountains. It strikes one that the landscape that all the houses are overlooking is not the landscape that is cherished and incorporated into the village. By this it is meant that nearly all the indigenous plants have been removed and replaced with foreign plants. Cupressus and Eucalyptus are not the type of plants that one thinks of for the side slopes of these hills. Of major concern to the village is the growing abundance of horticultural plantings rather than simple native screen plantings. It is important to establish a management plan that can regain the sense of rural character to this location rather than the potential future threat of a suburban environment. It must be stated that the theme colour of yellow is very effectively used with the plantings of senecio and the painting of walls near the church successfully extends the theme within the village centre area. The small park beside the community hall is being developed into a very comfortable space and a path is being inserted at the time of adjudication. It is perhaps worth considering transferring some of the colourful annual plantings located at the entry

areas to this park so that a scale of colour will make the park more important as these small planted areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is a need to describe this category more fully in your development plan, the central issue being how the future landscapes associated with the residential area can contribute and integrate with the rural landscape. This would also outline management techniques and possible programmes for the maintenance of the overall landscape.

LITTER CONTROL

There are no sources of litter in this town and therefore this category is easily controlled if compared with other villages, that would have more shops. Some litter was noted on the day of adjudication.

TIDINESS

There are very few impacts on the village that could make the overall setting untidy. However, there is the need for a consistent edge treatment within the limits of the defined village. This is an issue that has been raised within the entry form and has been successfully handled by other villages with very long connecting roads. Of importance is to establish a balance between maintenance and the type of image that the village intends to project.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Essentially the village is a stretched single road with individual houses located on both sides, thus the front garden of these individual homes play a very important role in presenting the character of the village. It is clearly evident that all gardens are very well tended. There is perhaps the need to establish a theme for all the walls along the village street.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There really is only one single road in this village and very few junctions. All surfaces are to a high standard, however there is a need to establish a consistent range of kerbs or edge treatments to the paved areas.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village needs to take on the country side image in a more positive approach. This can be solved by the re-examination of the wildlife component and how may allow the selection of species of plants to aid in reinforcing a rural character to the road. The village is a very stretched linear collection of houses and this can be very difficult to tie into a cohesive

statement because of the diverse preferences of individual land owners. However, it must be stated at present that many of the gardens use a limited range of plants that are mostly foreign to this countryside and that it may be a simple matter of seeking to use more indigenous plants to establish a cohesive image for the overall setting.