

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CALLAN**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	22
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	18	21
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	174	176

Callan, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The bypass and the relief of not having the traffic thundering through has presented Callan with a unique opportunity for a renewal in development. This seems to be very slow to take place and while some notable improvements in the landscaping has taken place the streetscape and litter, present enormous challenges. Visits to other towns which overcome these problems should be made to gain an understanding of the advanced standards that have been achieved in recent years and are continuing to rise. Help from Kilkenny county council will be essential.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Public buildings – churches, fire station, schools, and the friary were well presented. The ruined St. Mary's church is being worked on and hopefully this will result in a fine asset in the town. The library requires painting. The terraced houses and cottages along the Clonmel road are tastefully presented. There are a number of renovated shops and business premises. These are showing the way forward and their example will hopefully be copied by the many that need refurbishment. The Convent of Mercy is well maintained and the grounds contribute well to the landscape of the town. A very pleasant visit was made to the Edmund Rice centre where the buildings and landscaping was meticulously well presented and was a delight to visit.

LANDSCAPING

The considerable amount of landscaping on entry from the bypass was noted. The plantations of hardwoods at the green will be a fine show in time and it is very important that trees – limes, chestnuts, ash are planted now so that the next two generations can enjoy them in the way we benefit from previous generations plantings. The rose display opposite the school is attractive. The entrance area at the Kilkenny council area offices was in a very poor state. The grotto was overgrown with weeds and briars and litter was spoiling it.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river offers a wonderful opportunity in this respect. If a riverside walk could be developed it would be very desirable. The approach to the riverside at the pitch and putt and at the gap near the friary represent lost opportunities. Unsightly branches trapped in the river at each side of the bridge are not helpful. The planting to encourage wild life is a wonderful idea. A specific project relating to the river is an obvious choice for a wildlife and amenity improvement.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter in so many places throughout the town of Callan was most disappointing. Copious litter in the field beside Scoil Naisiunta Mhuire, also litter at junction for Kilmanagh. Litter at the pitch and put carpark, litter behind the railings at the corner beside Kentucky Star and litter along all the streets. The adjudication was done at lunch time over a few hours. There was no evidence of any cleaning. Please compare your litter standards with other towns and villages. This is the worst visited this year to date.

TIDINESS

The need for refurbishment of so many premises and the litter problems leave much to be desired in this category. Allowing cars use the footpath for parking is not only undesirable but dangerous. As I write a car is driving on the footpath on the heels almost of a woman pushing a child outside the Bank of Ireland. Surely this is totally unacceptable anywhere. There is an empty car park across the road at the church.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many individual homes are well maintained and their gardens well kept. This is an important aspect of every town as each individual can make a very positive contribution. The terraced houses are nicely presented. The estates were visited and many care for their homes well. Edmund Rice park and Collins Park show some good efforts being made. This shows up the small number who need to give more attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads are reasonably well maintained and show good surfaces. As stated above the use of footpaths for car parking at the Bank of Ireland, Supervalu and further down on the same side is not an acceptable practice. Mill street seems to have a greater number of derelict and premises that need attention than anywhere else in the town

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Callan is a town of contrast. There is a beautiful aspect created by the river yet this is not availed of to the maximum. There are interesting buildings and some very fine refurbishment but there are a number needing urgent attention. The lovely landscaping towards the bypass exits is commendable. The streetscape is less attractive. The degree of litter and areas of untidiness call for drastic action rather than defence.