

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILFINANE**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>194</b>

## **Kilfinane, County Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed questionnaire and sketch map of the town of Kilfinane. It would be worthwhile to know the number of committee members. The town looked quite well on what was one of the hottest days of the summer so far. There have been many new developments since this adjudicator last visited Kilfinane and all of these have had a positive effect on the village. The links between the committee, Limerick County Council and FAS are paying dividends and of course the town is home to the head office of Ballyhoura Failte which has been so influential in the economic development of Kilfinane and adjoining villages in South Limerick and North Cork. The visitor centre is an important asset and it was noticeable that there were a number of hill walkers in the town, no doubt about to explore the Ballyhouras and for the more intrepid Galtymore.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are many striking buildings in the town of Kilfinane, the majority of which are presented to a very high standard in terms of maintenance and colour schemes. Unfortunately there is also an unacceptable level of dereliction to be seen both in the core area and on side streets. Some of these buildings have fallen further into disrepair over the last number of years. It is a shame to see a magnificent building such as Dohertys Hotel looking so forlorn and in such a bad state of disrepair at present. As stated in last year's report it is hoped that if this building is to be redeveloped that it will retain its architectural presence. One appreciates that the committee have endeavoured over the years to encourage the owners of these buildings to at least camouflage them so hopefully the message will get through. On the positive side of things it was good to see old traditional shopfronts like O Cealleachairs with its black/red surrounds against a white backdrop, McCarthys Hardware and Powers Chemist have retained the traditional signwriting effect. O Seachnasaighs also looked very colourful. It is very encouraging to see owners using the Irish language. The AIB Bank building which is architecturally impressive was presented to a high standard. Newer type premises such as The Credit Union, Sheehys Centra, Ramzey and Kathleen's, Murphy's Amber Garage and the Ballyhoura Office also deserve to be commended. The Schools, Church and Grounds were also in top condition.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The planting arrangement and stone wall on the old school road was very impressive. A nice bed of flowers embellished the entrance to Mountain View estate. Individual homesteads had impressive gardens, Woodview B&B had a beautiful array

of bush and hybrid roses that were in full bloom. The Sacred Heart garden in the town centre was well maintained and serves as nice focal point. The Adventure Centre has some beautiful garden sections with shrubs, perennials and bedding plants. It is important that these planting arrangements are augmented by additional schemes ideally at the entrance points to the town.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There were no plans submitted for the proposed wildlife feature at Forest View. Hopefully the committee will get round to undertaking this worthwhile initiative for next year's competition.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The litter control was reasonable, unfortunately there was evidence of plastic bottles and wrappers to be seen on a number of side areas. No doubt the involvement of the schools will pay dividends

## **TIDINESS**

There is room for improvement in this category and some of the points alluded to in the tidy towns report of two years ago still apply. There was evidence of weed growth especially in back areas of the village.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The terrace of houses on the Glenroe/Mitchelstown Road were in very good condition with gardens in top condition. The Mountain View Estate was also well presented with nice planting arrangements as one enters. The Vale View estate needs to be brightened up. Maybe the County Council might give advice and some assistance towards a painting programme.

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

The Ballyorgan Road was a little overgrown. Verges need to be cut back somewhat. The Road to the Grotto and on to Ballylanders by the Rent an Irish Cottage scheme was in quite good condition. The Kilmallock Road was the best of all the entrances into the village despite the level of ongoing construction work. The suggestion in last year's report that the capping of stonewalls would greatly enhance the entrances to the town should be acted upon. Unfortunately the surface of some of the side streets was not up standard and the County Council should be approached to at least give and indication when resurfacing might take place.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kilfinane is expanding rapidly and there is a lot of building work taking place at the moment. It has the potential to do very well in the competition but needs the concerted effort of all sections of the community. Keep up the good work.