

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILKEERAN**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	201	198

Kilkeeran, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kilkeeran is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application and accompanying photographs and map. Situated on the shores of the Lough, in a totally rural environment and with a history that goes back at least fifteen hundred years, Kilkeeran has something unique to offer the visitor and, of course, its local community. Signposting from the main road is good as are the beautiful name stones at either end of the village. It is suggested that a walk or a trail to the lake shore be developed to Cospoir or Slí na Sláinte standards. Your three year plan makes for interesting reading, particularly the restoration of the famine walls in the village circle and research on the local history and legend. Your greatest needs are to have roads properly developed and important areas of the village signposted with professional signposting.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment consists almost totally of residential properties, all of which are well presented. The ruins of the old abbey and its associated graveyard with a backdrop of the Lough are a strong visual and social / historical element of Kilkeeran. The weatherstained crosses on the gates of the graveyard should be repainted.

LANDSCAPING

In your landscaping programme, try to plant permanent shrubs and trees with a seasonal interest, in favour of flowerbed displays and ensure that these are indigenous to the area. There are some excellent guidelines on landscaping in the Tidy Towns Handbook which you will have received with this year's application form. Clogher na Sagart (the village green with its ancient mass rock) looks exceptionally well, perhaps a small interpretive panel could be erected to explain its significance for the travelling public. The information panel might also explain the adjacent Gort na Croise. Avoid the use of non-native ornamental shrubs and trees such as the conifers at the name stone at the Northern entrance to the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plan to feature a timber map illustrating the wildlife and amenity areas of the village and environs is good and when complete will make a valuable contribution to the recreational amenity value of the village. The access point to the harbour should be well signposted for visitors, especially casual visitors. Signposting for the woodland area should also be provided.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good. Perhaps a litter bin in the environs of the graveyard would be a good idea. Well done on your National Spring Clean event. Try to extend your clean up days throughout the year.

TIDINESS

Greater weed control is necessary, particularly along the centre of the road which runs through the village from the two access points on the main road. The presence of grass and weeds along the centre of the road suggest untidiness and also suggest that public access is not usual or encouraged.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties are well presented. Be vigilant regarding boundary walls and roadside areas to these together with side and rear areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Try to feature the loose natural stone walls both on the approach roads to the village and throughout the village itself as an important element of the village by cutting back the growth as much as is possible and highlighting these. As noted above, signage for the harbour and the lake should be provided. The 'Welcome' signs should be either refurbished or removed altogether, particularly the one on the Southern approach. Refer to the section on the restoration of stone walls in your Tidy Towns Handbook as there are some excellent guidelines here. All stone work should be completed in a traditional mode. We wish you well in your endeavours to have the road through the village upgraded. This is really important for the ongoing development of the village. The car park at the cemetery should be properly surfaced. It was not possible to adjudicate the harbour, the sanctuary, or the shoreline as access to these was very limited in that there was no signage and the road is not properly developed, so it was difficult to determine if one was on private property or a public road..

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A visit to Kilkeeran is a very pleasant experience. Good luck with the implementation of your plan.