

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KELLS**
County : **MEATH**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	192	191

Kells, County Meath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kells is a designated heritage town with a rich history and several important buildings and it is therefore all the more important that the town presents itself to maximum advantage. A number of worthwhile developments have and are taking place, e.g. new street lighting and the on-going renovation of business premises, etc. However, the town will not look its best until much more attention is paid to the basics, e.g. litter control. The various points in your entry form were noted. It is hoped that you will obtain the additional F.A.S. workers as requested.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings, schools and Churches etc. are well presented. The Presbyterian Church is a simple, elegant stone building and the red brick Christian brothers building on the opposite side of the road is very attractive. The round tower and stone spire of the Church of Ireland are a town feature. Many of the business premises have or are renovating their frontage, however there is still much to be done. There are a large number of unsuitable fronts and plastic signs and a number of buildings in the town centre require renovation. The Court House is a significant building attractively located and hopefully the boarded windows are an indication that it is to be renovated. The security fencing at the Kells Stores is dilapidated and should be replaced.

LANDSCAPING

The extensive well maintained grassed areas of the schools with trees and shrubs which front on to the Dublin road contribute much to the appearance of the town. The grass triangle with mature trees at the Courthouse is another good feature. Well planted shrubberies were noted in several locations, e.g. Oldcastle Road and Bailieboro Junction, etc. However several shrubberies need weeding and the grass margins in the vicinity of others need attention, e.g. at Bailieboro road junction. The colourful hanging baskets in the town centre and the car park opposite the Kells Shopping Centre are praiseworthy.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENTIES

Mature trees particularly native species, well planted gardens, berried shrubs are all important for a variety of flora and fauna. The River is an important habitat and

should feature more in your future plans.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is a major problem and must be tackled. An on-going anti litter campaign involving all sections of the community is essential if progress is to be made. Litter is present in most parts of the town including the town centre, side streets and approach roads.

TIDINESS

The town will not look as well as it should while litter remains a serious problem. More regular sweeping of street gutters would also help. Broken footpaths and poor road surfaces are also negative factors.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of houses and housing estates are well maintained and many have cared for landscaped grassed public areas, e.g. estates on the Slane, Trim, Bailieboro roads. However as mentioned in last year's report there is scope for additional planting in many of the housing greens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Grass verges and hedges on the approach roads are generally well tended. However there are stretches of long grass margins on the Mullingar and Cavan roads which should be cut. The Slane road is particularly attractive with its neatly trimmed grass margins, mature trees, view of the golf course, lengthy stone walls and impressive stone entrances. The presentation of the Dublin road is also commended. The landscaping needs completing at the swimming pool and a litter bin provided. The absence of the wire-scape has improved the appearance of the town centre. However vegetation on chimney stacks is now more visible. Stretches of new footpaths were noted in several locations but a lot still has to be done to bring footpaths throughout the town up to an acceptable standard. Road surfaces are poor in many parts of the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A planned approach involving the community and the State agencies is the only way forward. Concentrate on the basics.

