

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILCLOON**
County : **MEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	--
The Built Environment	40	20	--
Landscaping	40	20	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	20	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	19	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	156	--

Kilcloon, County Meath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kilcloon is welcome into the Competition. There is a considerable amount of work required to bring the village up to standard. The dispersed nature of the village together with a small population do create difficulties. The first step should be to draw up a developmental plan which would define the village boundaries and set out how you would deal with problem areas such as the extensive and lengthy grass margins. The tidy town handbook is an invaluable aid in the preparation of this Action Plan. Obtain as much community support as possible and develop a good working relationship with State agencies. Don't be discouraged by initial low marks. Your progress will be watched with interest in the years ahead.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village has no centre as such. There are probably four areas that should be looked at individually, e.g. Church, Pub, School, Post Office. The Church is an attractive modern building but improvements are needed to the large parking area. The large parking area at Henleys and Pub also needs attention. The school is satisfactory but graffiti was noted on one of the school-out buildings. Shop goods contribute to a certain amount of clutter around the Post Office.

LANDSCAPING

The mature trees throughout the area are a fine backdrop to Kilcloon. The graveyard has a peaceful and secluded atmosphere surrounded as it is on three sides by mature trees. However additional trees could be planted in the wider grass margins throughout Kilcoon and where trees have failed they should be replaced, e.g. on the bend on the opposite side of road to the Equestrian Centre. The large car-park at the Church is bare and the planting of a number of shrubberies would help break it up. Trees could also be planted at the Church boundary and planting would also help screen the unattractive roadside fence in the vicinity of the pub. The large gravelled car-parking area at the pub has potholes and needs resurfacing and weeding. Colourful flower-tubs would help brighten up the rather drab school parking area and its surrounds.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The mature trees around the village, the extensive hedgerows and grass margins are significant wildlife

habitats. The stream at the graveyard which runs along the road side is also important.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control could be improved. A scattering of litter was noted along all the road margins, near the Church, the Pub, the School and in the bed of the stream at the cemetery.

TIDINESS

The area will not look as tidy as it might until there is more consistency of maintenance of road margins throughout the village and improved litter control.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation of many of the houses and gardens is one of the better features of Kilcloon. Many houses have fine stone wall entrances and maintained boundary areas. However there are several weedy gravelled entrances and a number of boundary walls need painting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The extensive grass verges throughout Kilcloon are a problem for a small community. The overall effect is quite patchy with grass areas being maintained at entrances and adjoining areas untended. Some stretches are infrequently cut and have long dead uncollected grass which is unsightly and adjoining stretches are untouched. A more standardised approach to margins is necessary. How the community deals with the grass verges and margins will have a major impact on the appearance of the area. The importance of hedgerows and grass margins for wildlife must also be taken into consideration. A practical approach would be to concentrate maintenance on road junctions and entrance areas and just to cut a narrow band of grass on the verges approaching these areas and to leave the rest alone. Dumped road material should be removed from road side at Church Crossroads. Village name signs should be provided. More of a feature could be made of the water pumps in the area and several road signs need improving.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A planned approach is the way forward. Prepare an action plan which can deal in a practical manner with the problem areas bearing in mind the resources available. Concentrate on the basics and in time major improvements can be made.

