

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLEIGH**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	204	199

Killeigh, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The entry form was well filled out and informative on local issues; the committee size is quite small and this puts great pressure on carrying out comprehensive works programme. As such it is important that a three to five year work plan be created to address specific points for each year so that the adjudicator can establish if new works are carried out. The plan of the village is very comprehensive and should be incorporated in a three to five year development report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This is one of the few villages that had gone to the trouble of seeking an accessible pedestrian crossing and it is obviously a much needed facility given the volume of truck traffic that passes through the village. The village green is obviously the centre point of the village and is very well maintained and has successfully integrated the ball alley so that its visual prominence is screened by the plantings. The GAA clubhouse looked well, with grounds kept to a high standard. The national school provides a very pleasant environment for learning and the planting of native birch aids in extending the concept of wildlife and indigenous trees. The lay-by area is very well treated and must be commended. Perhaps the element that needs greatest handling in the village at present is the presentation of the forecourt to the church which does not seem to match the standard of so many other areas around the village; perhaps consideration should be given to how the impact of the car parking lot might be reduced and make a more welcoming spot. On a last note the seats in the green area may require restaining of the wood to preserve their long term use.

LANDSCAPING

The green has a diversity of spaces and is matched by a great variety of plant types and picnicing areas. The space is really first class. Weed control at kerb edges is very effective but is unsightly because of the dead foliage. Grass cutting is managed to a high standard and reflects the hierarchy of maintenance which demonstrates the management programme, in that only the important areas of grass are cut. It is good to highlight such management concepts in a development plan. The graveyard is very pleasant and the side areas are very well managed. It would be helpful in such places to use a consistent tree type and this perhaps could develop a theme for each of the entry roads into the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is not mentioned in either a development plan or the entry form and must be tackled so that it can be assessed properly. There is a very good mix of management techniques from the cutting of verges to maintaining natural growth along the edge of entry road. It will be important to review the weed kill policy as this often disfigures the edges and if not properly controlled may have a polluting effect.

LITTER CONTROL

Loose gravel at the pedestrian crossing is unsafe and the town has an unfortunate situation of heavy traffic passing through the main street which creates a high level of litter; however, the efforts by the committee must be commended as the village was almost free of litter on the day of adjudication.

TIDINESS

Perhaps the main issue in this aspect is the effect of weed killer and whether it is properly controlled in such a small urban environment; if not properly applied it can make some of the spaces quite untidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are some really excellent gardens in this village; the lane down towards the Church of Ireland has a very nice mix of rural and managed landscapes and the verge to the road is very pleasant. All houses have very good gardens and Hillview is very well kept.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces should be kept cleaner and swept of loose gravel; the sign warning of children crossing should be cleaned. The road in from the cemetery (Mount Mellick Road) has a fair number of weeds at the base of the wall adjacent to the road and the use of weed killer reinforces an untidy appearance at the base of the wall. Perhaps ivies could be used along this entry wall, though the impact of passing traffic makes it very difficult to consider any long term planting arrangement.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Killeigh has maintained the character of a village and this in part derives from the strong focus that the green provides for the village. There is little ribbon development associated with the entry roads and it is very fortunate that it is possible to concentrate on simple statements within the environment

of the village. Given the size of the committee there is very good work carried out to all the spaces.