

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILCOOLE**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>200</b>

## **Kilcoole, County Wicklow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your completed entry form, map and booklet on the History and Folklore of Kilcoole. All of these are very informative to the adjudicator. It is obvious that there is a strong local commitment involved in the Tidy Towns effort in Kilcoole. The support of businesses through sponsorship and involvement of local schools is welcome. Kilcoole still retains its village atmosphere which is important. The adjudicator would have appreciated submission of an updated annual programme adapted from your long term plans. This would have allowed for evaluation of the work over the past year. Try to ensure that each year this is submitted as was suggested in last year's report. Overall, good efforts have been made in terms of focusing on the overall development of the town by maintaining open spaces along the main street, providing a focus on the approach roads etc. However much needs to be done, for example, greater attention is needed along Lott Lane.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The focus of the built environment is primarily centred on the main street and in this regard the adjudicator was impressed with your treatment of this built environment. For example, treatment of open spaces through planting, the provision of the 1798 monument in an otherwise wasted space and the on going development of new business premises which have developed good shop fronts, an example being Trading Places. It was good to see cobble locking outside the shopfronts as well. In general, the main buildings were well presented, for example, the Church and its grounds, Glenroe Florist was nicely presented with nice use of flowers outside, complementing its in role in the community, Miley's was well presented as was Kilcoole Deli. However, a little bit of extra effort would help set off a number of other buildings. For example, Byrne's would have benefited from a fresh coat of paint, and there is no need for bunting and so many promotional signs overhead. The sign at Glenroe estates would also benefit from painting. While the Molly Malone was freshly painted the open space adjacent to it takes from the overall appearance of the built environment along the main street and this will have to be tackled. Good luck with your plans to develop the upper green as proposed in your plan. The new development at Corrig Hill was noted.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The adjudicator was impressed with the treatment of landscaping, particularly in the way it has incorporated into

parts of the built environment, for example along the main street. Congratulations are due to all those involved here as it really did create a colourful appearance and reduced the drabness of some of the built environment. Further up along the main street the landscaping at the Church helps to set off and create a tidy appearance along this approach. Excellent efforts were noted with the use of shrubbery and planting of flowers in a number of areas, for example, at the Pump. An excellent effort was also noted at the entrance to New Road. Flower tubs were noted at the Pumps also next to Lilly's and the use of flower tubs throughout the village has also to be commended. The shrubbery next to the florist was also quite appealing. At the 1798 monument, excellent effort was noted. The adjudicator overall was very impressed with the planting which created a very nice colourful impact on the town.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The adjudicator would reiterate the comments made in last year's report under the heading of Wildlife and Natural Amenities. Kilcoole marshes while outside the town boundary is part of Kilcoole and efforts must be made to make them more accessible and part of the town in a way that is consistent with the overall objectives of development of wildlife and natural amenities. Kilcoole is also surrounded by an essentially rural environment and this provides further opportunities in which to enhance development of wildlife and natural amenities. In this regard the adjudicator would welcome proposals from the committee on what can be achieved in this regard. While credit can and is given for specific wildlife projects, it is also far more important to assess the way in which the centre is handling its natural amenities generally, including its river banks, hedge rows, small woodlands, coast line etc. The Tidy Towns handbook can assist you in compiling a strategy for nature conservation in and around the village of Kilcoole.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The adjudicator was impressed with litter control management along the main street with no problems appearing this year. Well done in this regard. However, outbreaks of sprinklings of litter were noted at the bus stop and litter was also noted at the entrance to Rockview Manor, the residential estate, which suggests that continued vigilance is needed in order to overcome this problem. Local authorities are now required to prepare litter management plans every three years and you should consult Wicklow County Council in this regard to identify what is being done in relation to Kilcoole. Overall, not a bad performance under this category.

## **TIDINESS**

The presentation of the triangular area to Glenroe Open Farm was very untidy and overgrown and could be improved, perhaps in conjunction with the support of Glenroe Open Farm. The area around the recycling facility, was unsightly even though it was encouraging to see use of recycling facilities being made. Lott Lane is unsightly and needs to be tackled in the medium term.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of residential areas again this year. Both good individual and combined efforts are evident throughout Kilcoole so congratulations to all those involved. Sylvan Lawn - had an excellent presentation with a display of very attractive flowers at the entrance. Hazelwood Crescent was also well presented, however, the grass could be some what neater within the estate, and try to replace the sign which is faded. Monteith Park was also well presented; however, resurfacing of the road is needed. Good individual efforts were also very apparent, for example, Woodbine Cottage. Beech Dale, as was Sea View, Meadow Brook and Ashlawn. Well done, good effort this year. Good individual efforts were also noted in the houses in New Road. Bellview Close could be much improved. The new development at Corrig Mor was also noted. Overall a good effort.

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

Generally good efforts are made in presenting a neat appearance on the approach roads into the village of Kilcoole. For example, on the approach from Ashford, both grass verges had been cut; however the left hand side could be somewhat better maintained. The approach from the Railway/Coast Line, was also very good as it was litter free. However, further out, verges would benefit from some cutting. The approach from Delgany was very good, very well presented and neat and tidy.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of Kilcoole this year. There is obviously a very good combined effort as evidenced by the presentation of individual residential areas as well as landscaping along the main street and introduction of new shop fronts. Please keep up the effort and try to focus your annual efforts on a simple action programme that will help the adjudicator identify and reward works that have been carried out. Good luck for next year.