

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SHILLELAGH**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	28	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	22	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	198	--

Shillelagh, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form together with map which was helpful during adjudication. Your development plan has still not been received. This is a requirement of the competition; you should consult with the Department of the Environment and Local Government in relation to the submission of this for next year. With 10 members in the committee the adjudicator recognises that you probably have limited resources available. The village of Shillelagh is unique and one you should be very proud of; the significance of some of the buildings and the presence of the park area increases the need for the preparation of the development plan in order to properly plan for the future and allow for all to be appreciative of enhancing the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The adjudicator recognises the problems you have with derelict buildings. The village hall, with clock tower, however, was very poorly maintained; the adjudicator is disappointed that you do not place more emphasis on such a unique building particularly on the clock itself. Side gates of the Avalon need painting. Keelys was freshly painted, well done. The Church of Ireland was beautifully presented and there are good individual efforts. Your unique granite buildings are something that must be protected for the future and it is good to see that efforts are evident.

LANDSCAPING

Obviously one of the main focuses of the town is the large grassed park area which is well presented and continues to improve this year. The dangerous trees which have been removed were noted by the adjudicator. At the triangle area on the Tullow approach road, a better effort could be made. Try to work on this for next year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Wildlife habitats exist throughout the village of Shillelagh. It is a typical countryside village where access to the surrounding countryside can be found in all directions. Scope exists for appreciation of wildlife habitats; for example, the little stream noted on the Tullow approach road revealed the presence of a King Fisher. Try to get the schools involved in wildlife projects; what's important is a balance that will allow natural amenities and wildlife to exist within the perimeter of the village. Your development plan should identify and establish priorities and objectives in this category. The adjudicator noted the habitat area behind the public park which is obviously a good area for

encouragement of wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good on the approach road, particularly from Tinahely. Outside Shillelagh Stores was litter free, sprinklings of litter were noted in the car park and sprinklings were also noted by a telephone kiosk. Excellent control on the approach roads. Try to replace litter bins where needed, for example, near Keelys shop.

TIDINESS

Re cycling bins were noted in the car park of the Petrol Station / Shop. The seat was freshly painted at the bridge which was good to see. The car park of Walkers is a little untidy, you might try to improve this. The adjudicator noted finger posts signs for Ballynulta, which have been broken for several years. Try to pay more attention to such details.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The adjudicator is impressed with the nice stone cottages particularly on the approach from Tinahely as well as along the main street; these are unique and very important features, part of the history of Shillelagh which must be nurtured and nourished. The majority of these were very well maintained, well done. Within Millbrook Estate some litter was noted. Overall a good performance under this category.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Generally, approach roads are well maintained. On the approach road to Tinahely, school grounds were well maintained and the road was litter free. Better effort could be made with the presentation of the landscaped area at the junction near the little bridge over the stream. The approach road near the Church is different and quite attractive and is obviously less frequented by traffic; this allows for more natural development of grass verges. On the approach from Kerry Foods, a neat and tidy appearance is noted up by the bridge over the river.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Try to get all the residents and commercial interests to a meeting during the winter months to explain the objectives of the Tidy Towns Competition, I'm sure that the Department of Environment and Local Government and the Local Authorities would be more than willing to support this in the interests of the overall development of Shillelagh which is a unique village.