

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILKEE**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	43
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>224</b>

## **Kilkee, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the documentation sent in with your entry form including the CAAS Kilkee Tidy Towns Report, a folder on the Millennium Gardens, details of bodies with whom you co-operate and a review of the year. (However, unfortunately, the map provided did not name all the streets, approach roads or the various areas such as the West End etc., and this would have been helpful). We note that there are now 15 members on your committee and that the local businesses including the AIB and Bank of Ireland provide sponsorship. There is obviously a large commitment to the Tidy Towns ethic in Kilkee and this is in evidence throughout the town. The fact that you are working in a planned manner is also to be commended.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

In the town centre there are many good shopfronts and business premises including (to name but a few) Scotts Bar, The Marble Bar, the Bank of Ireland, Nolan's Butchers, and the Old Bistro which was being painted on the day of adjudication. The Fastfood Takeaway needs attention as it had grass growing out of a drainpipe and the house next to Williams Pharmacy needs to be painted. The market area with good paving and toilets looked well. Other well presented buildings throughout the town and surrounds include The Stella Maris Hotel, buildings in Merton Square, the Shop at the Pollock Holes, Arcadia Amusements and Waterworld. The Kilkee Bay Hotel is also well presented as is the Cineplex next door but some landscaping here would be good. The GAA complex is also rather stark and needs some landscaping to soften. The three Churches are well kept. The Liscannor stone slate roofing covering St Senan's well appears to be damaged at one corner. Old Moore's building needs to be repainted and the School on the Carrigaholt road needs to have the doors and windows restained, Doors also need to be painted at the Kilkee Fire Station. The Shelter on the way up to George's Head needs attention and also the white building near the pier needs to be painted.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The weather this year has not assisted in these endeavours. However, the seafront green areas were looking well and the newly painted benches and street furniture were noted. The Millennium Gardens would appear to be an imaginative project but it would seem that this project is not as yet underway fully. On the Carrigaholt road the area near the Shrine was well kept but the flower beds needed weeding. A person was spraying weeds at

the Kilkee Enterprise Centre. However, this was being done without removing the weeds first, thereby leaving a brown area when the weeds die. At the picnic area on the way to George's Head one portion of the grass was cut and the other left untended. There was a wall being built here during adjudication which should enhance this area when completed. The grass area at the triangle near the Doonbeg road was overgrown with some rubbish on it and the flower beds at the top of the ring road between the Doonbeg road and the Kilrush road were being weeded on the day of adjudication.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Millennium Nature Walk being organised should be very worthwhile and also the Nature Quest Centre at the Blackweir Bridge will increase interest in this subject.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There are many litter bins, of good design and well kept along the promenade and there was no litter in evidence on the day of adjudication. However, at the car park near the start of the walk up George's head there was some litter (bottles, cans, tea bags) in the picnic area here. As there are no bins here perhaps a sign asking people to bring their litter home would help. The skips for rubbish and litter at the two car parks at the Pollock Holes and in the Car Park opposite Waterworld were noted. These are a little obtrusive but, perhaps necessary in these areas. There was rubbish in the top right hand corner of the Golf Club Car Park and the plastic membrane was coming up through the gravel here also. However, for a seaside town the litter in evidence was not exceptional.

## **TIDINESS**

As there has been a considerable amount of building taking place in Kilkee (which is continuing in some places) there are a number of small areas that would appear to have been overlooked when building was completed and therefore detract from the overall tidy appearance of Kilkee. Those involved should be asked to finalise and tidy up before they leave the area. There was also rather untidy entrance to the estate near St. Senan's Well and the railed in area near Old Moore's detracts from this part of the town. Merton Square is an attractive area in the town and if the Dinky Donuts van could be stored less conspicuously it would improve the appearance of this area even further.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most private houses are contributing to the tidy towns effort in Kilkee and the Lodges along Strand Line are mostly maintained to a high standard. It should be remembered

that the surround walls should receive the same attention as the house itself. At the Moore Bay holiday village, building continues. However, the green areas and tennis courts are quite well kept at this complex. Castle Field is another holiday complex which is well maintained. However, at the new housing complex on the Golf road the gravelled front gardens were weedy. The housing estate on the Doonbeg Road is very well kept and the green area here with nicely planted tubs and flower beds is admirable. However, the plastic containers in which the plants came before they were bedded out were still lying by the tubs. . The derelict house at the corner as one turns onto the Doonbeg Rd is rather unsightly and perhaps a long term solution to this problem should be sought. On the Church road six town houses are being built at present and no doubt will be encouraged to contribute to your efforts when completed.

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

Road surfaces are rather poor throughout. Most back areas are tidy but the rear of Old Moore's, which is visible from Merton Square would need attention. Also, at the Golf Club, barrels, crates and bins are very visible at the side of the building facing the road. Could this area be fenced off or planting take place to hide these objects which are rather unsightly for walkers up to George's Head. The rear of Kilkee Diving and Watersport Centre, which again is visible on this road, was rather overgrown and untidy. Signage throughout the town was mostly good.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kilkee is a very good example of an Irish seaside town which is having to adjust to expansion and change. Now that the building in the town is coming to a close, it is time to consolidate the efforts to date and look to the future. The work undertaken over the last number of years is commendable, both on the physical level and also on the level of addressing issues such as Wildlife, the Irish Language and co-operation with all other bodies in Kilkee and we feel that the town will progress further in the competition in the years ahead.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)**

Thank you for your most comprehensive report. Kilkee was presented to a very high standard on second adjudication also. The town was very clean overall including its beaches and greens. A small amount of litter was noted outside of the Craft Showcase, well done on the development of the Millennium Gardens at the three churches. The nature and country walks are an excellent idea and will enrich the experience of visiting and living in Kilkee. Old Moores need to be repainted. We wish you well in your undertakings

regarding Hodges Green. There are numerous scenic views of the coastline and the magnificent sweep of the bay from various points around the town and these must be preserved. Congratulations on a fine presentation. You are well aware of areas in need of attention around the town, well done on a fine plan and a fine submission this year.