

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILKEA**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	27
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	197	194

Kilkea, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application form. As mentioned in last year's report the inclusion of a 3-5 year development plan would be rewarded by a notable increase in marks allocated to this section. Also the inclusion of a more detailed map of the urban area of the village would help.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the school and the church are very well maintained and presented. The picturesque architecture of the older village buildings are to be commended and their conservation encouraged in years to come. Their elaborate bargeboards are a notable feature and have been suitably painted throughout. A nicely painted pump was noted adjacent to the traditional telephone booth. Traditional stonewalls are also an attractive feature to the village and perhaps this is a theme that could be carried through in newer residences.

LANDSCAPING

Individual residences have displayed great effort and there is also a sense of uniformity along the terraced houses. Hedge boundaries in all cases were very well maintained. There is potential for the placement of shrubby or herbaceous planting at the "no dumping" signs behind the terraces and perhaps this would alleviate the dumping problems. The school grounds are neat and well landscaped, however recently pruned hedges and trees (branches) had not yet been collected on the day of adjudication and this detracted from the overall impression.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are many possibilities for the development of wildlife amenities throughout Kilkea. Perhaps it could be initiated within the school grounds where a number of trees and hedgerows are present. Encouraging the planting of berried trees and plants will also attract birds and butterflies. The mature horse-chestnut woodland in the church grounds is a wildlife habitat in itself that could possibly be developed further. Finally, the bridge and adjacent overgrown area (opposite the golf course) also shows huge potential with regard to wildlife amenity development.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is not a problem in Kilkea. A number of litterbins were noted, e.g. in the school grounds. It is commendable that the local school children be involved in a clean-up programme, as it is they who will possibly be Tidy Towns Committee members of the future.

TIDINESS

Kilkea is a very tidy village and this opinion prevails throughout. However, there is one area in particular that diminishes this view and that is the unsightly rear boundaries of the terraced houses. Perhaps planting hedgerows like those at the front of the houses would enhance this area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residences in Kilkea are generally of a very high standard regarding boundaries, paintwork and gardens. However some residences require repainting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads to Kilkea are well cut back and cleared. Planting shrubs and herbaceous plants on approach roads could enhance the overall effect. This would allow seasonal interest.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilkea is a quiet rural and unspoilt hamlet deep in the heart of Co. Kildare. Undoubtedly, the Castle and golf course are the main feature of the village. Attention to detail throughout the village will enhance marks in future years and see the village progress further in the Tidy Towns Competition.