

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILL**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	239	239

Kill, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you very much for the application form, letter and the map. The problem with the map was that there was no indication as to where work had taken place and it made the job for the judges more difficult. The judges noted the comments about developments and that a plan is due in two years time. However if the Committee put a plan together now, they then will be able to input and feed into the plan put together by the Council and perhaps have greater say and thoughts about their own community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Community Centre looked well – it was tidy and there was some nice landscaping. Unfortunately, some litter could be seen at the rear of the building and this was visible from the nearby estate. The derelict building behind the playing fields was an eyesore. The small enclave of shops looked well though the amount of merchandise on show outside the hardware was tremendous. This does, however seem to be a hallmark of hardware shops around the country. There were some very nice baskets on show by these shops. Behans was well painted though should consider more traditional signage suited to the village character if in the future they intend to change the facade. The playing fields in St. Patrick's Park required attention and perhaps some climbers could be considered for the back wall here as it looked quite drab. The Dewdrop Inn was well painted and the Church of Ireland is a fine building. The RC Church was neat and the carpark reasonable despite work being carried out nearby. There were nice flowerboxes of red/pink geraniums at the school – well done.

LANDSCAPING

The village is very well landscaped throughout and this is reflected in the marks that it receives each year. There must be a tremendous amount of work involved in maintaining the flowerbeds as many of them are a mixture of herbaceous perennial and annuals mixed. Do consider for your own sake the replacement of these with more long term shrubby planting preferably of native origin. In saying this, the village looked very well on a damp July day. St. Patrick's Park was exceptional – the weeding had been carried out thoroughly and the plants were in good condition. Is there meant to be a feature up the Killeel Road? – some stonework and new trees were evident though feature seems incomplete. The landscaping has been carried into private residences and commercial premises and throughout the village there was a

great sense of pride evident from many of the houses and cottages.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river is an excellent amenity. On the day of adjudication there were, however a few pieces of litter evident in the river. The seat beside the river was missing a rung and grass cuttings had been dumped beside the bridge. The area was well landscaped and the water looked clear though there was some evidence of algae growth in a part of the water. Could the river become part of a nature walk/trail in the area and involve the local school children? It is a great amenity which many other villages and towns would envy.

LITTER CONTROL

Unfortunately despite your daily cleanups there was a lot of litter in evidence caught up between hedges/fences and off the main street. A lot of litter was evident in the hedgerows beside the community centre and up to the adjacent estate. Litter was also seen to the rear of the Community Centre and on the laneway in the centre of the village. Litter bins were visible and generally well maintained. The main street was clear of litter – well done. The second litter bin up the Killeel road requires refurbishment, as did another in St. Patrick's park.

TIDINESS

Despite the litter, Kill was tidy of the day of adjudication. The excellent approach roads, and the high presentation of residential areas contributed to this.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

This category again scored very highly. The housing estate beside the community centre was very well cared for and the judges liked the way the long grass had been used as a natural divide between the estate and the playing field. The sculpture/ installation looked very well. The houses on the Naas approach were exemplary. The Gables was also well presented though weedy areas in some gutters was evident. The landscaping at the end of Whitethorn Grove looked very well though must take time to maintain. The judges would suggest the use of climbers to disguise the wall opposite the entrance to Whitethorn Grove. The cottages opposite the Shopping area had wonderful cottage gardens and were full of roses and other flowers. The traditional two storey house opposite these was also admired. Glendara, Halwell Green and the newly developed Earls Court all were well presented. Litterbins were required in the newer estates in order to get the residents into the habit of putting litter in the bin rather than on the ground.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Naas was excellent. The tree planting on the dual carriageway is maturing and the Ambassador hotel was well presented. The sweep into Kill was very presentable and the judges admired the nice stone sign. The approach from Killeel was also excellent, nicely landscaped and had some well presented houses. The Dublin approach was good though the lead-in is short – well done in this section.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kill looked well, however this year litter did seem to be a problem. An outline plan is required – this need only be a short outline though the community will benefit in the long run if you have a strategic and well thought out plan incorporating the large amount of new development in the village and the resulting impact. There were roadworks, lorries and a great deal of activity of the day of judging. One day it will be completed – best of luck with your future work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)

The difficulties imposed by the widespread construction work have been taken into consideration. The Tidy Towns Committee will have an important role in influencing the way in which these developments can be made to blend with the existing village infrastructure – chiefly in planting and landscaping. While approach roads are good, as mentioned in the first adjudication, the roads within the village are generally very poor, and this is not entirely due to the developmental work at present ongoing. While some litter was evident, its incidence was not nearly as obvious as on the date of the first visit, and a mark deducted has been restored, which demonstrates how important a second adjudication can be. Next year please be sure to mark locations on your map where significant improvements/developments have taken place over the previous twelve months as requested on the entry form – we are unlikely to miss them, but one needs to be sure.