

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILKEERAN**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 29 | 29 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 29 | 27 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | 19 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 36 | 35 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 10 | 11 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 21 | 23 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 204 | 201 |

Kilkeeran, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kilkeeran Residents Association is obviously a hard working one to judge by your wonderful achievements in relation to stonewalls and landscaping on the roads around the village. It is one that is steeped in history both of an archaeological and cultural nature. It is evident that the local residents have a great interest in both these issues as well as their local natural environment.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The ruins of the old church and graveyard looked well although the graveyard itself was patchily weedy with evidence of dandelions etc. A Fás sign had been erected but possibly this is related to completed work?. This spot affords the visitor a magnificent view over Lough Carra beyond. The adjacent forecourt/car park area appeared to be rather weedy. The wealth of famine stone walling was by and large beautifully maintained.

LANDSCAPING

This is an area in which you obviously have a keen interest. The magnificent area adjacent to the harbour with its cut grass, mature trees, rocks, spring well and monbretia looked extremely well. The backdrop of the stonewall with its fine timber gates set this area off extremely well. The planted beds with their mixture of colourful flowers and permanent planting at strategic corners of the roads of the village looked extremely well. Perhaps the removal of the timber fence surrounding them would set them off to better advantage. The village green – Clogher Na Sagart, looked extremely well with its recently mown grass, mixture of planting and, obviously, the Mass Rock. The interpretative panels (as indeed the wildlife maps on approach roads) had yet to be erected on adjudication day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your second prize in Mayo County Council's environmental project is to be highly recommended. There has been an obvious enthusiasm for environmental issues in the locality for some time given that Lough Carra has been a wildlife reserve since 1969. The area is a wealth of many different types of habitat such as the lakeshore, the woodlands (including the wild goats!) of Clydagh Woods and the spawning trout in the stream.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this aspect of the competition was extremely high, the area virtually being litter free on adjudication day. However, perhaps you could consider the purchase of some litter bins in strategic points such as the harbour, the old church and the village green – just in case! Obviously Kilkeeran attracts a lot of visitors and will continue to develop this in future years.

TIDINESS

Your an Taisce Spring Clean Award for tidiness is to be commended. Although the adjudicator appreciates your continuing efforts in relation to the car park and roads, their appearance is still somewhat daunting and not quite welcoming to the visitor. Some tin roofed sheds of the village will need to be repainted in a traditional red or green. Of particular note was the rear of a stone shed by the harbour. An overgrown garden of an abandoned house on a bend looked unfortunate and its adjacent shed would benefit even from a fresh coat of whitewash.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a large number of houses within the roads of Kilkeeran – quite a number of them are of a vernacular cottage style and these are beautifully cared for. These make up the bulk of the built environment of the village. The B&B's throughout were well maintained – in particular the magnificent gardens of two by the lakeshore, one with its fuchsia and roses overhanging its boundary wall. Further attractive gardens were evident on the upper road with their flowerbeds extending to the roadside.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Off the north approach to the village there was grass growth to the middle of the road. The welcome sign, set as it is within the stonewall, is quite discreet. Try to strike a balance and achieve a natural appearance to the roadsides without them looking wild and unkempt. There was an abundance of wild flowers including daisies, honeysuckle and fuchsia in the hedgerows. Perhaps the grass could be cut back in areas which afford magnificent views to the lake below. Along the south approach the welcome sign was noted and daisies and honeysuckles were apparent to the hedgerows. The roadside to the lake with its ivy clad stonewalls looked well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The attractive area of Kilkeeran is a gentle peaceful location situated as it is by the lakeshore of Lough Carra. The residents obviously have a great pride of place in relation to their natural environment and the settlements unique and long history.