

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILBEGGAN**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	33	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	12
Litter Control	40	26	28
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>193</b>

## **Kilbeggan, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Kilbeggan is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Thank you for your application and, in particular, for the details of projects accomplished in the past year. These were all noted and marks awarded accordingly. The gentle rise and fall of Kilbeggan's main street, its two squares in the village centre, its two fine amenity areas at both ends of the village together with many excellent features such as beautifully landscaped, amenity areas, riverside park and historical buildings and remains more than compensate for the apparent linear form of this village along a national primary route. There is so much more to Kilbeggan than the travelling public appreciate. Everyone concerned with the development and environmental and recreational amenity enhancement of Kilbeggan is to be commended.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Most buildings look well, although some need a little work. The carpark of the Health Centre looked well. St. James Hall is reasonably well presented but not outstanding. The terrace of buildings at the junction of the Tullamore road and the main street are perhaps the most visually important buildings in the village, it is a pity that they are not presented to their full potential. The new Fire Station looks well and stands in stark contrast to O'Briens pub across the road. O'Neills Kitchen' premises could have its forecourt area tidied up and landscaped. The old distillery building could be freshly whitewashed and the walls to the 'Kilbeggan Irish Whiskey' sign on the main road either planted or cleaned or painted. Both the GAA clubhouse and the handball alley were beautifully presented together with their grounds. It is a pleasure to note the well landscaped grounds and roadside boundaries of commercial properties on the main Athlone road and on the Clara road.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The race course out the Mullingar road is a wonderful amenity for Kilbeggan and the maintenance of grass verges from there into the centre links it successfully with the village, well done. Well done also on the green with the Sacred Heart statue. Young trees at the top of the Tullamore road are maturing well. The silver birch trees at the church are quite magnificent and the firethorn on the building opposite is doing its job admirably with its display of mayflower.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The stretch of wire and post fencing to the nameplate and

beyond into the village on both the left and right hand side of the roads from the Tyrellspass end could be successfully planted with a combination of beech and hawthorn hedgerow which would act as an excellent wildlife habitat. Some Cypress trees are planted along stretches of this wire and post fencing. The Grand Canal Harbour building (Irish Organic Farm Growers Association Headquarters) was much admired and the dry bed of the canal must be of substantial wildlife interest. This amenity should be sign posted from the village centre. The graveyard is beautifully maintained and the carpark area magnificently landscaped. The riverside park is a fine development, however the over long grass at the base of seating and along the fencing should be cut back. The water feature and wildlife on the river at the old distillery building was much admired.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

A substantial amount of litter was noted on newly exposed verges along the Clara road. Otherwise litter control was quite good overall.

### **TIDINESS**

Could the old mill on the Mullingar road have its window apertures boarded up and brightly painted? This would enhance the appearance of this building substantially. Sprayed weeds at the base of the wall at the top of the Streamstown road should be removed.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Residential properties marking the entrance to the village from the Mullingar road would benefit with repainting, perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme of soft pastel, muted colours could be chosen. The colour scheme for residential properties at the top of the Tullamore road is most pleasant and could be extended as already noted to other properties marking the entrance to the village from other approach roads. One or two of the boundary walls here need to be painted to simply freshen their appearance. No doubt the new residential development on the Tullamore road (the Gallops) will be finished to the highest of standards and will enhance the built environment of Kilbeggan. The landscaped corner (with bog oak) at St. Marys Avenue looks interesting. Some roadside areas to boundary walls of residential properties on the Streamstown road need to be either resurfaced or grassed and have their weed growth removed.

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

The new lampstandards in the village squares are a very attractive feature. The margins of the Tullamore road had also been recently cut on adjudication day. Some exposed litter should be removed. The kerb of the footpath and the

base of walls out the Streamstown road looked particularly bad during adjudication as weed growth here had been sprayed and the effect was unpleasant to the eye. Potholes in the new residential development off the Streamstown road are a problem which needs to be addressed soon. Is there any news regarding the ducting of the wirescape in the centre?

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kilbeggan is a village which improves in its presentation each year. Its entrances are particularly attractive and the racecourse is an amenity to treasure.