

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILRUSH**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	44
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	34	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	231	224

Kilrush, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the very comprehensive submission of entry form, excellent map and detailed notes regarding your work during the year. This is just one more aspect of the Kilrush commitment to the Tidy Towns effort which was evident throughout the town on the day of adjudication. All categories of the Competition have been addressed with vigour and enthusiasm by the Committee.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

On the entrance from Killimer, the Bruach na Coille B & B and also Leath Rath B & B were very well kept and landscaped and as Bruach na Coille is the house you see on leaving the Vandeleur Walled Gardens this is important. On this road also the Kilrush Fire Station is very well kept. On Francis Street, the Post Office, Queally's Supermarket, the Bank of Ireland and the AIB are all contributing. The old Hotel and Cinema here are both for sale and no doubt the new owners will improve their appearance. In fact, most premises throughout the town are making an effort and the new traditional shopfront at the Central Shoe Store was noted. On Pound Street Gilbride's shop is well maintained as is the Community Centre – however, signage here is in need of attention. The School to the left of this street is rather stark and perhaps some planting of trees or shrubs could be undertaken to soften its appearance. The Old Fire Station has received attention. On the Kilkee road the Golden Vale building is impressive but the Old Kilrush National School needed its windows painted. St Theresa's Nursing Home is well kept but had some weeds outside. On the Lahinch road, Regina house is nicely landscaped and also Kilrush Furniture and Kilrush Industrial Estate where Chemfab Europe have undertaken good planting of shrubs. On the corner of O'Dea Rd/Henry St, Reidy Motors could do with painting and some hanging baskets would be good here. Most premises on Henry St contribute in demonstrating what is good in Irish towns. The new Eircom telephone boxes throughout the town are fresh and clean. The Square is attractive with the good Market House, lanterns and seating. On Moore Street, premises are mostly well maintained although the beer signs at the Percy French Bar could be cleaned and there were no hanging baskets on the brackets provided at the Garda Station – whose design is very much out of keeping with the rest of the architecture of the town. It was noted that there is a FAS scheme in operation at the old Church on this road. On the Cappa road, Creek Lodge is good, although the signage is bent here. In Cappa itself the Lifeboat Station is well kept. The children's play area is also well kept with the play items newly painted in bright colours. The railing and

promenade are attractive. There was no sign to say that the toilet block here is a toilet block and no note on the doors inside to say which were mens or ladies. The streetscape in Cappa is quite attractive.

LANDSCAPING

The planted areas throughout the town are too numerous to mention except to say that these are well kept, colourful and attractive, especially the two park areas near the entrance to the Marina. The Marina area itself is well kept – however, the planting undertaken near the barn, whilst good, will take a considerable number of years growing to hide this building – perhaps some other species should be considered. Most tubs were overflowing with colour, but a few on the Killimer road were a little drab.

However, the weather has not been kind to these endeavours this year. Where there is ivy on top of stone walls this should be removed as it will weaken the structure of the wall and is unsightly. The Vandeleur Walled Garden and Courtyard will be of great interest when completed – on the day of adjudication some of the planting was in place and was most impressive. As well as the garden, the tree lined avenue and possibility of walks being developed here (as is your intention) is attractive. The road to the Scatterry Island Visitor Centre is at present being worked on – this whole area needs attention to come up to the standard of the rest of the town – the picnic tables were noted but more is needed. Grass was being cut and hedges clipped in public and private areas throughout the town during adjudication and the energy given to the Tidy Towns effort was admired. At Cappa the planting was also good and some private houses have made a special effort in landscaping here.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The emphasis on creating awareness of wildlife in the area as being one of your key objectives is commendable. Also the wildlife habitat near Kilrush Creek Lodge and Adventure Centre is worthwhile. Your work on research and a survey project with Kilrush U.D.C on Kilrush Woods will lead to further projects no doubt.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little evidence of littering throughout Kilrush and a good distribution of litter bins was noted. However, at Cappa there was litter on the ground outside the play area and all along the wall leading inside. The litter bins here were full and overflowing with rubbish being blown around. On the way back to Kilrush, a streetsweeper with bin and brush was encountered – could such a person also look after Cappa? When travelling to Cappa there was also litter at the corner near the Creek Lodge and all the

way out to the travellers encampment further on.

TIDINESS

Mostly Kilrush had a tidy aspect with kerbsides and wall bases weed free. As mentioned, the roadway by the Scattery Island Visitor Centre would need some attention. On Vandeleur Street the County Council yard was not very tidy and out Moore Street there was a very untidy yard area on the left.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residents of Kilrush are mostly contributing fully to the Tidy Towns efforts – however, it should be remembered that surrounds walls and gates need the same attention as the premises. Visible back areas and gables also need to be well maintained. Attractive colour schemes for terraced houses can be enhancing. A house was being painted in a good bright colour on Moore St on the day of adjudication. No doubt new houses being built on the waterfront at Cappa will be encouraged to become involved in the Tidy Towns endeavours and hopefully the new owners of a corner house for sale here will improve the premises on purchase.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Signage was mostly good throughout Kilrush and the two special signs on the Killimer road – one welcoming and advising visitors of what is on offer in the town and one announcing the twinning of Kilrush with a French town are attractive. However, a few speed limit signs could do with repainting.

The street name signs are excellent and were of great help to the adjudicator. At Cappa there was no sign at the beginning of the pier re the possibility of travelling over to Scattery Island. In Kilrush, the passageway next to Brew on Henry Street has a rather grim aspect. Most towns are now making a feature of such areas. Road surfaces were rather poor in a number of areas and there was a very rough patch outside the entrance to the play area in Cappa.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilrush continues to move forward whilst protecting its heritage and building on same. Well done to all those involved in the achievements to date. With attention to detail, and continuation of maintenance in those areas where work has been undertaken it would appear that the town should do well in the Tidy Towns Competition in the future.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)

There were a number of improvements in Kilrush since our first visit. The Cappagh Drive was very well presented and the beach and harbour here looked well also. Litter control was very good with a minor exception on one side of the square where there was a light scattering of litter. The majority of shopfronts were very well presented. The area around the junction of High Street and Toler Street presents a problem as does a side road off the Ennis Road which forms a crossroad with 'The Glen' which had a poor overall appearance. We look forward to the completion of the Vandeleur Walled Garden, work was still in progress during our second visit. A seat on the main street was in need of refurbishment and many boundary walls on Pound Street and the school beside the Fire Station could be upgraded. The town enjoys many fine facilities, being located on the coastline and enjoying a good wide street, a town square, Heritage Centre and many traditional shopfronts. Scenic views of the coast line from both the Lahinch and Kilkee roads are a treasure. Thank you for your very well presented submission, this facilitated adjudication greatly.