

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILMORE QUAY**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 32 | 32 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 27 | 25 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 27 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 19 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 35 | 35 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 28 | 24 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 214 | 203 |

Kilmore Quay, Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kilmore Quay, arguably the region's most delightful village continues to make impressive strides in its Tidy Towns presentation. Renowned for its fine thatched cottages, its impressive stonewalls and its success in eliminating street parking, the village looked delightful on the day of adjudication. Thank you for the most useful map, together with the various heritage trail leaflets and the comprehensively completed entry form. The extent of building in progress was great and attention will be required to ensure that this does not intrude into or diminish in any way the particular, unique character of this village. A number of the cottages have been re-thatched, sadly, not always in the traditional Irish format. A delightful feature is the random rubble walls surmounted with white stone lintels and verticals. The splendidly completed new car park behind the harbour walls is a major advantage. In equal measure, the order put on the previous chaos of marine equipment, machinery and gear is a substantial advance on previous years. This is a material and long lasting improvement to what has been an intractable problem for many years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The manner in which houses, and particularly, front facing walls have been presented, in traditional whitewashed format is a joy. The Garda Station, although acceptable, would benefit from a brisk brushing of the pathways. Hotel Saltee was well presented, as was the Wooden House restaurant. The County Craft Shop was delightful while the presentation of the Hardware and Marine Supplies, at a different scale, was equally meritorious. Of course, the major impact is reserved for your delightful range of thatched cottages. It is disappointing to see one of this diminishing stock rapidly reaching a point where its rescue will be improbable.

LANDSCAPING

The area around the harbour and the marina is extremely well presented. The selection of the precise mooring point for the Guillemot, closing the view as one approaches down the main road, is inspired. The robust anchor display - SS Idaho 1878 – is appropriate and well sited. The embryonic memorial trail and garden is a substantial undertaking already underway. We look forward to its completion in the fullness of time.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In sight of the world famous Saltee Islands, with their teeming, varied and exciting bird sanctuary, it may be easy to overlook the need for and opportunities for individual wildlife habitats within the village itself. The planting of berry-bearing shrubs in various locations is recommended. The entrance area to Crossfarnogue Villas being significant in this regard. The area around the Millennium Park should also be assessed in this regard.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter management is of an excellent very high order throughout the centre. Around the harbour, where because of the extent of visitors one might have anticipated difficulties, it is pleasant to record an absence of disfiguring, discarded items. The provision of litter bins should not be overlooked however, notably in the new car park.

TIDINESS

The success of Kilmore in removing street parking has contributed immeasurably to a sense of order and a lack of clutter on its roadways. Additional attention is directed towards the removal of weeds at the base of walls. This was particularly noticeable at Maritime Supply. The Recycle for Life presentation at the harbour entrance was suitably sited and, it appears, extensively used. In some locations commercial signs needed to be washed for best effect, for example, at James Keogh's pub.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The individual housing stock at Kilmore Quay is a delight and well presented. Additional new housing is in the course of construction. At Crossfarnogue Villas the road surface is below par and requires attention. The fine cobblelock pedestrian only laneway leading to Main Street is a distinct improvement. Individual houses did not achieve a uniform standard and arranging of a competition for well-kept gardens, which has been found helpful and motivating in other centres, is recommended.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The signage, village nameplates and speed limit, was very well presented. The grass verges were appropriately, but not excessively cut back on all approach roads. Front facing walls, with very few exceptions, were free of weed, neat and well presented. The roads were freshly swept and clear of debris. The large centrepiece to the roundabout at the harbour was suitably planted and was in itself a positive element of street furniture.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kilmore Quay has, for many years, been a delightful area, struggling with the extensive area beyond the harbour. Now that this major negative has been turned into a strong and pleasing positive, the village can be expected to advance rapidly in the Tidy Towns programme. The development of a three-year, rolling programme of objectives and aspirations, is strongly recommended in order to chart what will undoubtedly be further substantial improvement in the rating of this delightful centre.