

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KISKEAM**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	31
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	13
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>209</b>

## **Kiskeam, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The Kiskeam Development Association are to be congratulated on their excellent work programme. You show a very positive approach to the village's wonderful assets. Do bear in mind that you should extend your programme each year – you have identified areas of work for this year and next year in your submission but did not extend any further. The tremendous support that you have garnered from the local community is quite evident to the visitor. Each of your projects as proposed are highly commendable, in particular the future development of perhaps your greatest natural asset, the river. Overall a very good presentation both on the ground as well as on paper, giving very positive impression.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Buildings throughout the village and along approach roads were well maintained on the day. The Why Not Lounge Bar had been freshly painted – perhaps some consideration could be given to replacing the signage opposite. Plastic signage in the village should be replaced in time with those of a more traditional timber variety. The Harp & Shamrock was extremely well maintained as was the charming Post Office in green. Work appeared to be ongoing to buildings of the village on the day. The church and grounds were well maintained with its raised stone planted beds to the front boundary wall. The gable wall of the creamery with its charming new mural was admired. The National School needed some attention on the day in particular its gable walls which are quite apparent as one travels along the street.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The indigenous ash trees and beech hedges are maturing well along the main street behind their attractive stone wall. Incidental landscaped spaces throughout the village along the long main street and the old lane form attractive features and give the village some interest. The millennium garden with its use of gravel, natural stone and water looked well. The Bronze Age theme is certainly an unusual and interesting one – perhaps some thought could be given (as mentioned by last year's adjudicator) to the replacement of circular concrete table and bench. The grotto and adjacent area was well maintained.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There seems to be a high level of consciousness of the village's natural heritage in relation to the river, and the adjudicator read with interest of the plans to develop this area further. The use of bird feeders is a commendable one and you should continue to encourage bird life by planting berry producing trees and shrubs. The return of the corn crake certainly seems like a good omen for the village! A hawk was

evident hovering above the Rathmore Road on adjudication day.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard to this area was quite good, although closer inspection revealed some problem areas along the Cullen Road and the odd paper in the Millennium Park and also along the main street. However your daily attention to litter control appears to be paying off.

### **TIDINESS**

Weed control was a problem on the day with the base of the school boundary wall being extremely weedy and the boundary wall to the graveyard in a similar condition. The gate to the latter appeared to be quite rusty also, as was a gate opposite the Cullen Road junction. The concrete wall along the village street could perhaps be replaced in time with some of the fine dry stone walling evident elsewhere in the village. The ongoing improvements to Old Lane are high commendable – although some yard areas in this location should be screened off from public view.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good. Bungalows along the Mallow Road were well maintained although some of the boundary walls were in need of attention. The Local Authority housing was well maintained apart from one boundary wall. The rust red house in the village centre which had been freshly painted was greatly admired. A boundary wall leading to the steps on the Cullen Road appeared quite grubby. The adjudicator noted the completed sheltered housing along Old Lane and admired its landscaping. However the abandoned cottages in this location, although freshly painted, will need some attention to their tin roofs which should be painted.

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

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good on the day. The Mallow Road was well maintained, its raised grassy bank looked natural without appearing too wild, which is to be commended. The signage generally was well maintained – the Duhallow signs throughout this area of Cork are most attractive. The Ballydesmond / Rathmore Road sported an overhanging mature tree and buttercups above its stone boundary wall. However some weeding was necessary to road edges in this location. The Cullen Road is an attractive approach to the village with its view across the valley to the colourful buildings on Main Street nestling among the trees. However, this approach would benefit from a higher standard of maintenance.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The tremendous support you have garnered from the local community is quite evident to the visitor to Kiskeam. The village certainly can no longer be considered Ireland's

untidiest village!

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/01)**

The two storey building attached to the *Why Not* required painting. After a heavy rain shower the car park opposite with muddy puddles, weeds and a rusty trailer significantly diminished the effect of so many other worthwhile achievements. The approach roads with much overgrowth did not look so well this time. Nonetheless there is certainly an air about the village of deep commitment to its development and enhancement. The new sheltered housing was admired. We wish you well with your future endeavours!