

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILCAR**  
County : **DONEGAL**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	25
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>180</b>

## **Kilcar County Donegal**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your application form, informative maps and supporting material. As part of the competition you are requested to include a proposed long-term work programme, incorporating the various aspects of the competition headings for the town. A clear and simple 3/5 year plan, outlining achievable targets for the committee, this will help focus your work in the future, and also helps the adjudicator to measure your progress. Your continued co-operation with the County Council, other interested bodies was noted, and the benefits of these partnerships will continue to enhance and enrich the village and its community. Your results to date are a good advertisement for the hard work of the T.T.C. and the community.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The brightly painted buildings give a pleasant appeal as you approach Kilcar nestled in the hills. The R.C. church with its well maintained grounds and unusual bell tower looked well. The other derelict church looked tidy with some well maintained stonewalls. Last years comments regarding the structure of this building still applies. An Oifig Phoist also looked well its colourful floral feature. The old school looked tidy, but the new schools paintwork needs attention and last year's comments regarding the trees and perhaps wildlife garden still applies. Many business premises looked well but the plastic signage and stickers on the windows need to be addressed. Your new community centre and building opposite look well and this adjudicator assumes this redress's the issue raised in last years report concerning this part of the village. It is good to note that the factory also have plans to refurbish their building.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Your lovely matching colourful tubs added a lovely splash of colour to the streetscape. You have 2 lovely pumps in the village centre and including this perhaps a common village colour scheme for bins, tubs and street furniture should be considered. The corner at the Glencolmcile road also presents a sample opportunity for a feature. The lovely bed in the middle of the village added a lovely splash of perennial colour with a mix of colour and content for the whole year. The Grotto in its focal position looked lovely and well maintained. The small brook beside the phone box provides an interesting feature that could be appropriately developed and presented as an attractive natural feature. It would be good to get the capstones replaced here.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Tidy Towns Committee have an important role in

preserving and suitably enhancing the natural environment within their community. The village is fortunate to have the river located in it's midst with some lovely mature trees on its banks. There are also other opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the village. Wild flower meadows / grass areas, nesting boxes, pond/water features, trees and hedgerows offer additional opportunities. The local children and their school and grounds are an option for developing some of these opportunities. When choosing appropriate signs for projects ensure they enhance rather than detract from the environment you are promoting and preserving. Work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, ENFO, or a local wildlife expert to develop this area.

This adjudicator wondered at the fully rooted shrubs lying in the river and hopes the committee has taken appropriate advice in this area.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Some litter was evident at the sub stations at the bridge and opposite the Post Office. Similarly litter was evident inside the railings all the way out to the school. A carrier bag of rubbish was abandoned beside a bin in the village. It was disappointing to see the most litter being on the road to the school considering your admirable work with the school. The committee must remain vigilant in this important area of the competition.

### **TIDINESS**

Some building rubble needs to be cleared behind a building at Killcar Yarns, who also could refresh their signpost, similarly some materials could be removed behind the sub station mentioned previously. Some plastic needs to be removed from the water at the bridge arches and similarly an old sign is in the water at the Post Office Bridge. Property owners should be conscious of their visible back yards and alleyways and appropriate screen gates should be considered in some places.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many gardens looked very well with some bright, well maintained premises, tidy gardens, hedges, boundaries and flower features catching the eye. These also highlight the odd premises that need to refresh their paintwork and tidy their boundaries.

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

Approach road creates the first impression of the village and deserves attention. The Glencolmcille road could have tidier green verges without compromising the fauna and lovely foxgloves and also highlighting its many fine stonewalls. Kilcar has some lovely stonewalls dotted throughout the village.

The coast road has some lovely verges up to the 30mph signs and the Graveyard looked tidy and well maintained.

All the small roads out of the village could have their verges tidied and their stonewalls more effectively presented. You are admirably conscious of the work needed on your hedges, your completed plans will indeed enhance the village environment. Footpaths were in good order but some of the road verges need attention. Your plans in this area should address this in the future. Most of the 30mph signs need their paintwork refreshed. The new stone sign and the Killybegs approach looked very well, well done to all involved.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The committee are aware of , and motivated towards, the outstanding work that needs to be done to optimise your lovely village to it's full potential within the competition. Well done for the work to date and good luck with your future plans.