

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	37
The Built Environment	40	24	25
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	9	10
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>201</b>

## **Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Kilbeggan's potential has to be measured in the context of the planned by pass motorway which has major implications for the future of the village. The village's role in servicing through traffic will be replaced by a more integrated infrastructure in which most of the village's amenities and facilities will service the local community, rather than passing traffic, needs.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are a number of interesting buildings highlighted by the 19<sup>th</sup>. century industrial architecture at Lockes Distillery. Within the village concern is expressed for the future of the central square. Already part of the square has been demolished, the Credit Union building is showing signs of disrepair on the first floor, and two houses on the Mullingar corner are in a state of stress. The old Bank of Ireland house needs redecoration. The Smithwick sign on the Dublin Road corner should be removed. There are attractive lamp standards in the square but their role appears mainly decorative as the predominant lighting is a high profile standard road lamp. The restoration of this square as a pedestrianised amenity rather than its current bisection for through traffic movement should be considered in future plans. It is disappointing to see the wonderful old building at the entrance to the village on the Dublin Road side vandalised by a poster site and the replacement of most of its windows by plastic frames. There are a number of derelict sites including the stretch between the Loft Restaurant and O'Brien's Garage. The Church off the Harbour Road is clean and tidy in its presentation. An excellent restoration work has been completed at the Kilbeggan Harbour, which includes offices in the restored building and potential to restore the harbour itself. Well presented car park and period style lamps. There is an interpretative plaque at the harbour entrance.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Dublin Road side is dominated by the school which is well presented with maturing gardens. The green triangle was attractively presented with its maturing trees and (damaged) lamp standards. At the other end of the village the Marian Statue amenity was nicely presented, though some trimming of the lawn was needed. The Park at the Relic Road was disappointing - broken seat and pram framework lying in the river. There are attractive river and wildlife views from both sides of the bridge. The problem with heavy wirescape cables stretching across the square persists. The new graveyard looked well but the old graveyard with its ruined church was overgrown. Powerscreen could look at planting some hedging to screen their yard.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Signposting to a walking trail via the Streamstown Road led to an unsafe 'plank' access to canal. There is an excellent canal walk from the Harbour which stretches for six miles into wonderful wildlife countryside. You might consider identifying projects by seeking the

advice of ENFO - a public information service established by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government or contact your area wildlife ranger.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

It was noted that litter control was of the highest standard. There was a good distribution of litter boxes and this along with the programme of street cleaning and litter picking is having a very positive effect.

### **TIDINESS**

There are recycling facilities in the car park at St. Patricks Hall. Generally, Kilbeggan presented as reasonably tidy but it was disappointing to see poster sites so close to the built environment.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

By and large the residential areas are nicely maintained and presented. Housing on the approach roads to the village display many mature gardens and the grass areas trimmed. Within the village the row of houses on the Dublin Road were with one exception well presented. The Tullamore Road and Streamstown Road estates were generally tidy but some trimming of footpath grasses on the Streamstown estate is suggested.

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

The entrances to the village are good with trimmed grass verges. Given the level of through traffic, the main street was in remarkably good condition. Good to see the pedestrian crossing complete with dished pavements. Path condition generally good but resurfacing required in some areas. There are some problems with hall steps protruding onto footpaths and some areas of broken surfaces. The car park area beside Lockes was well presented and is an amenity focal point within the village. Good approach road from harbour. Attractive cycle path starts about a mile out on the Athlone side of the village

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kilbeggan is a village which has suffered somewhat from the through-flow of traffic from the national route of which it forms an integral part. It has an exciting future with its bypassing by the proposed new motorway. It's potential needs to be guarded to ensure that much of its old architecture is maintained and restored.