

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLUCAN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	23	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	15	14
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	149	144

Killucan, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The details of the year's plan is very well expressed in the accompanying note. Particularly welcome is the focus in getting a set of specific jobs done rather than trying to get everything done at the same time. Details of the work undertaken was good and the adjudicator had great pleasure in seeing the developments specified.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The gate pillars and railings in front of the Market House are well maintained but the Market House itself still awaits anticipated restoration. Opposite the Market House the town houses and shops are nicely presented. Bryans bar and lounge has colourful floral display. Ennis's Pub also looks well with flowers displayed at the base of the frontage. There is a combination of exposed stone faced and plaster finishes but again the predominance of plastic window frames is disappointing. The Garda Station looks nicely painted but once again plastic windows have been introduced. The house and gardens beside the ESB station look very well. However a terrace of potentially interesting houses seem to be falling into a state of dereliction. Also in this area is an unsightly scrap yard of old buses. McHughes garage door requires repainting and the petrol pump area is oil stained. The Westmeath national education building could benefit from repainting.

LANDSCAPING

At the Rathwire junction there is a nice grass verge to the left and a nice array of flowers in a stone font at the right hand side. The village green looks very well with its cut lawn, picnic table and tennis court. The paths had some weed growth and dead weed remains. Fronted by a newly constructed wall, 5 planters of colourful plants and a well maintained verge on the opposite side, this area provides a very attractive entrance to the village. It is noted that further trees are to be planted here. The Cloughan Road entrance has an attractive selection of trees.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Many of the trees within the village are quite mature and some thought might be given to preparing for their replacement. The surrounding land provides an excellent wildlife habitat. 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

Killucan was virtually litter free on inspection day. It is a village with considerable potential not only through the improving presentation but also in the re-development of some of its old buildings. There were adequate litter bins.

TIDINESS

The central section of the village towards Raharney is disappointing. A broken wall filled in with timber laths puts some old machinery on view in the open area behind. Housing in this area is not well presented. The garage on the right is untidy with barrels and an array of Shannon Insulations packing creates on view. The builders' yards still pose a problem and every effort should be made to encourage the owner to screen with hedging. There is an amount of loose pebble on the new footpath in this area probable thrown up by passing trucks. The wall adjoining the new park wall is damaged and there is some graffiti to be seen.

There is a tendency to leave stocks of gas tanks or beer barrels outside business premises and this should be discouraged. However there are also problems with unfinished housing developments and at one location, the back view of a builders yard with some old trucks and trailers stored at the end of a field.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Bungalows on the Delvin Road are well presented with good wall frontages. Columba's College is very well presented with a selection of plants and flowers in the shrubberies and lawns which is litter free. Within the village proper there is a nice line of chestnut trees close to the corner of the Delvin Road. The Kinnegad Road has a nice planter of flowers at its corner and nearby Rose Cottage is well presented. At the Rathwire cross roads the remains of road surfacing material is dumped in the corner. In this area is a row of well maintained bungalows with verges kept in good order. Some nice hedgerows along this road close to the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance from the Mullingar side is attractive with a delightful view of the Church of Ireland with its very well maintained garden and grave yard. Foot paths are all clean and tidy, occasionally broken by maintenance work. Restoration works are being undertaken along the Glebe wall. There are some heavy overhead cables which should be put underground. The wall overlooking the green on the Delvin road looks well, albeit there is some builders residue in evidence. There is some litter at the picnic seat.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator notes with pleasure your discussions with the Glebe developer to accommodate floral presentation in the re-alignment of the new wall, and also the promised refurbishment of the Market House and yard.