

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILRUSH**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2001

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2001 | Mark Awarded 2000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 47 | 46 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 34 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 36 | 34 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 24 | 22 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 31 | 30 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 24 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 25 | 24 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 245 | 231 |

Kilrush, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Committees are thanked very much for their fine and most comprehensive presentation of their approach. The many Committees, each covering an aspect of the Competition is excellent. There is an existing three-five year Development Plan for the town by CAAS which has come to an end, but is already extended for a further three years. Very good work and it gives all the Committees a benchmark to measure their yearly work against.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It was noted that many elements within the new Three-Year Programme are nearing completion or are well started, such as the Millennium Park; the House Paint Programme; the slow elimination of derelict houses; Shop Front Grant Scheme, Street Signage and the Shanakyle graveyard restoration. Already these are making a very strong visual impact on the environment of the town. Very impressive work indeed. Four items which the adjudicator found disruptive in this great work were:-

The derelict industrial works, in which the Kilrush Montessori Pre-School have a premises. It is hoped that this large derelict structure and grounds will soon be eliminated. The empty hotel on Francis Street which is very obvious.

The Social Centre which has an air of misuse, all downpipes are partially missing and spraying water on the walls, no comprehensive tree planting programme. Perhaps the schools should be more involved and talked to regarding their added involvement.

The adjoining very fine library should be repainted and general maintenance work attended to.

The Paint Programme is excellent, with Francis Street looking very well. Possibly Henry Street will be the next street to receive detailed attention. The adjudicator found there was an excessive number of signage here which detracts from the streets' appearance. The adjudicator was impressed with the street name design and hopes it will be extended to all areas in time.

LANDSCAPING

There is a very impressive programme of work done and work underway. Keep planting trees indigenous to this area and that are attractive to bird life. Avoid too many flowering trees, which are both short-lived and not big enough. The adjudicator was very impressed by the quality of maintenance work to the many green areas, both large and small. The outstanding appearance of the many front gardens added to the overall pleasing appearance. The adjudicator looks

forward to the completion of some of the projects underway for next year's entry.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Again, the adjudicator was much impressed by the work done and work in progress, such as the introduction of ducks into the Creek; the survey of the Kilrush Wood and Cappa coastline; preparing a Slí na Sláinte pedestrian path around the town and the Shannon Dolphin and Wildlife Foundation. The adjudicator will look forward to the increased work promised on these projects in next year's entry.

LITTER CONTROL

Except in Henry Street, there was little evidence of litter. Litter bins were full in some places but it was noted that on the next morning they were being cleared. The involvement of schools to heighten awareness is essential and their involvement has been noted.

TIDINESS

There is a general air of tidiness to the town, which deserves congratulations. There were, of course, small areas needing more attention, but the adjudicator is sure these will be attended to.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Excellent work being done in both single home front gardens and in homes on streets, with either flower boxes or hanging baskets. There were many streets of finely finished front gardens. Crofton Street is but one of many. As new housing is completed it is expected that these will be introduced into the programmes of landscaping.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Street nameplates are very attractive and it is hoped that this titling will extend to the side streets and especially the narrow alleys which, in time, will be improved and could be most attractive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very pleasant town which can only improve with the attention envisaged in the many programmes at present completed or underway.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (29/07/01)

The wide main streets of the elegant town of Kilrush looked well on a sunny adjudication day. The new park area by the quayside with its dolphins looked extremely well and this area has been greatly improved since the adjudicator's last visit. However, the area behind the marina building which is used for car parking, was quite weedy and looked unfortunate. As mentioned by the first adjudicator, the large old mill building by the entrance to the marina is still looking extremely neglected

and this seems a terrible pity as it is ripe for an attractive and sensitive redevelopment. The town continues to improve over the last number of years – keep up the good effort.