

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-1902

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	33	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>245</b>

## **KILRUSH, CO. CLARE**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Your most comprehensive and detailed submission reflects a high degree of forward planning and positive vision for this market, marine and heritage town. Your ability as a committee to liaise effectively with so many different groups is most praiseworthy. You have a vast area to contend with and numerous approach roads, housing estates, industrial operations, and commercial trading, all combine to lay a heavy demand on your efforts. You are now benefiting from years of work, but it is in the area of urban renewal that most improvements are obvious.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The town has been transformed since the last visit by this adjudicator. Indeed, the progress in evidence in the past five years has been way above comparable standards. You have saved and enhanced much of the 'old Kilrush' and the many fine late 19th and early 20th century buildings that received attention are now showpieces. Your plethora of traditional shop fronts has long been acknowledged and now many modern shop fronts are similarly excellent. In particular the following were appealing to the adjudicator's eye - Saunders, Central Shoes Stores, Pk. Bourke Drapers. Public buildings, in particular, are of a high standard and presentation, such as the Town Hall, Fire Station, Bank of Ireland, to name but a few. The private sector has responded well with a high degree of fresh painting. The railings at the church on Toler Street should be painted, although it is noticed that this church is planning restoration. The restoration of the church at the other end of the town is interesting.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping programme of recent years, and currently, is nothing short of impressive. The high numbers of open spaces on approach roads is making a strong statement. These developments add great colour and project a very favourable image for the town. Your policy of painting the many public seats different colours is attractive and visitor friendly. These developments are well maintained, despite the lengthy approach roads. The display of window boxes and hanging baskets by commercial traders and individual residents, coupled with the continuous public works, combine to give a bright air to all areas of the town.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Marina and other water areas offer you a good opportunity to earn valuable marks in this section. Your policy of liaising with wildlife experts is commendable. The duck island is also a visitor attraction. The dolphin sculpture is an indigenous development and well executed at this focal point in the town. However, the size of the text on the plaques is a bit small. The adjacent metal footbridge here is a gem.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Every approach road, street way and lane way was examined during adjudication on a quiet Monday evening. The control of litter was the most obvious single favourable aspect of all the adjudication. In short, Kilrush was almost totally litter free, an achievement seldom witnessed in towns of this size. Residents were observed attending to flower tubs and spraying at 9.20pm. in the evening - well done.

## **TIDINESS**

You have scored well here and your problems in this section relate to a small but obvious amount of dereliction, some poorly kept commercial yards, especially on the Cappa Road, and a small number of poorly presented private houses.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Individual effort was very good throughout and the many excellently presented houses and gardens in the various estates is of a high standard. There is an excellent example of effective urban infill on Toler Street, opposite the church, although one would welcome a reduction in the use of PVC or similar materials in favour of the more traditional and more acceptable timber doors and windows. The street signage is excellent throughout.

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

The road structure is excellent, well laid out and well defined. The town's layout, with attractive streetscapes lends itself to further commercial development. You are coping well with the increase in traffic and the car parking is well developed. Are there plans for improving the appearance of the huge corrugated shed adjacent to the principal car park? Some heritage trails now require improved maintenance. The walled gardens were included in the adjudication and proved a most enjoyable experience - an excellent development, well presented. Any progress on tree planting on Frances Street? It offers great scope for further landscaping. Malthouse lane needs a one way sign or else allow access to Moore Street. Henry Street was undergoing new surfacing and traffic calming development on adjudication day. This is a fine street with many attractive shopping outlets. There is a nice display of a Naomh Óg at the junction to the Marina. Industrial estates are fairly well presented, but do not reach the standard of inner Kilrush.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A most impressive performance. You certainly cannot fault the local authorities for their efforts and achievements in recent years. Kilrush is now among the high scorers in the competition and your efforts as a community have earned you an increase in marks. Well done.

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## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/02)**

Like the first adjudicator, the second had not been in Kilrush for some years and was very

favourably impressed. The inventory of work undertaken, and likewise the inventory of work proposed, speaks for itself and demonstrates the serious commitment of the associated bodies, as well as individual householders and business people. The problems of dereliction need not be repeated here. The Committee must be aware that the Local Authority has powers to take action against the owners of derelict sites. Your responses to the queries on the entry form are exemplary and comprehensive. The only real disappointment on this visit was a certain bleakness in the area from the wonderful old warehouses via the neglected buildings at the entrance to the marina to the rather weedy expanse of field adjacent. In comparison to what has been achieved, and is being achieved elsewhere in the town, this is perhaps a less urgent matter.