

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	185	180

Kilcar, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Last year's adjudicator suggested the creation and adoption of a 3 to 5 year development plan. Whilst your submission does include some very worthy proposals for the next few years a more detailed programme of improvements, covering all the different categories would be more beneficial. Also, a more detailed map of Kilcar (don't be afraid to draw your own), highlighting the areas where improvements have been made, the areas where problems remain, the location of buildings of interest etc would be most useful to yourselves as well as the adjudicator. Having said that the submitted proposals by Caroline Dickson are very exciting.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town of Kilcar does occupy a very attractive location. The RC Church looked most attractive and the grounds are well looked after. Some buildings within the village, however, do require either maintenance or renovation and the butcher's shop appeared to be in disuse. Teac Barnai was admired and The Donegal Studio Hand Weaving Works and shop is a very attractive building and would benefit further from repainting of window frames. The forecourt to the building is clean and well maintained. The Post Office and neighboring house are well presented. Caroline Dickson's proposals regarding the bridge are excellent, particularly the cantilevered walkway. The large factory remains unsightly. The village, like so many others in rural Ireland, would look so much better were the overhead cables to be relocated in ducts beneath the ground and your proposals for this are most welcome.

LANDSCAPING

The two pumps within the village were again admired. The work carried out to the grotto is to be commended as it looked most attractive with the new planting, painting and flower box. The area behind the Donegal Studio Hand weaving Works, where an old ruin is located, could be put to good use under this heading.

The landscaped area beside the housing estate is quite pleasing whilst the retaining wall at this point needs attention. The good use of flower boxes within the village was admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The proposals for a river bank walk and the cleaning and restocking of the river itself are excellent and highly commendable. A pity it must wait another two years. Do heed the advice of last year's adjudicator regarding the potential to develop projects under this heading as it is an area where good marks could be attained.

LITTER CONTROL

Quite a lot of litter within the town, particularly outside the Mace shop. There isn't a bin outside the chip shop and more bins, as you are aware, need to be provided within the town.

TIDINESS

The lower wall of the Piper's Rest could be cleaned up. The convenience stores have a lot of domestic gas bottles sitting outside on the footpath and this does tend to give an air of untidiness. The petrol station at the bottom of the street did however look as tidy as could be. Quite a lot of weed growth was seen on the boundary walls to the school.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Generally the houses on the Killybegs approach road are well maintained. The housing estate is a little untidy in certain areas and the steps to the houses require urgent attention and much of the footpath is cracked. Many houses are well maintained with freshly painted walls and good gardens. Many houses at the top of the town were painted with good, bold colours and are very attractive for it.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stone name sign on the Killybegs approach road is very pleasant although a few weeds along the kerb require attention. The bridge at the bottom of the town requires attention to its surface and boundary wall. The location of petrol pumps at this juncture is unfortunate as a large oil tanker, there for refueling purposes on the day of adjudication, forced the traffic into single file only. Coming down the steep hill into the village is a most pleasant experience as the vista opens up. The wild flowers and heather growing on the bank add to the experience.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Much has been done to improve the village and you are to be congratulated for it but it is the exciting proposals you have for the next 2-3 years that will really bring out the best in Kilcar.