

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILGARVAN**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	24	22
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	24
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	186	177

Kilgarvan, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kilgarvan is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Kilgarvan enjoys a sylvan setting in lush countryside with pastoral scenic views from the village and tree lined entrances which are stately in appearance. The community celebrates its Michael J. Quill heritage wonderfully by the fitting memorial centre with craft exhibition and training workshop. This development is being considered for a Heritage Award. The Motor Museum, two kilometres away was also an interesting experience. There is no reference to a plan in your report, it is important to put together a work programme to ensure that the overall development of the village is co-ordinated rather than piece – meal. We look forward to receiving this in due course.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village is made up of handsome properties, many of which are well presented, however quite a few are in need of repainting and general refurbishment. Public buildings are well presented and these include the church and the school. The O'Suibhleain building is eye-catching and is being considered for the Best Irish Shopfront Award. A number of corrugated roofs in the village need treatment as these look very unattractive when rusted or patchy. A stretch of wall at the 30 mph speed limit sign on the Kenmare entrance to the village needs to be cleaned and / or repainted. The gable wall of the hostel is an important focal point which needs similar treatment. The curtilage area of the Conserve A Window property is weedy and untidy looking. We note that this property is for sale, perhaps its new owners will address this problem.

LANDSCAPING

This is one of Kilgarvan's strengths in the competition. Roadside boundary treatment at both Michael J. Quill Memorial Centre and the GAA Centre is excellent and the drives up to both premises are beautifully landscaped. Well done for the combination of landscaping and stone work. The curtilage area of the GAA clubhouse should now be resurfaced and the seating here refurbished. Landscaping is suggested for the grounds of the Conserve A Window property. This will serve as an excellent introduction to the village from the Killarney road. Are there plans for landscaping the banks located beyond the hostel towards the village? A pair of timber planters beyond the Mace property travelling in towards the village was full of long grass and weeds and represented a bit of an eyesore. The latter stands in sharp contrast to the beautifully landscaped areas noted above and make it difficult to consider the village for a

landscaping award.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

What appears to be an old quarry has potential as a wildflower garden, the committee might consider advancing it towards this stage. Bird boxes were noted at the school. Do submit any available details of wildlife or the promotion of an awareness of wildlife on the part of the committee or the community. We refer you to the Tidy Towns Handbook for suitable projects under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good in the village on adjudication day, well done. One litter bin attached to a pole looked quite bad and could be refurbished or removed altogether. We note from your application that litter is regularly collected from streets, the national school, the church area, the burial grounds and roadside areas, this is paying dividends. Submit details of how often this is done and what size work team you have. This kind of information could earn additional marks.

TIDINESS

There was an overall ambience of tidiness within the village, a few side areas and field entrances could have been improved and, of course, there is a certain element of untidiness associated with further development works. No doubt these problems will be addressed in due course, particularly at the completion of construction work. Derelict buildings and the derelict petrol pumps are also a problem, of which you are aware. The recycling point is well located and looked quite tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A number of houses in the village centre need cleaning and / or painting urgently. Two of these are focal points in the village, one with a gable wall facing out the Bantry road and the other located near the building with the plaque to the poets. Houses on approach roads were well presented with well laid out and colourful gardens. Newer developments look well and those in the course of construction will, no doubt, be finished to a high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There has been a handsome increase in marks under this heading for the extent and quality of new stone walls, both on approach roads and in the village centre, well done! Some items of street furniture need attention. As noted above, the curtilage area of the GAA clubhouse needs to be redeveloped. The incidental seated amenity area with mural in the village centre is an interesting feature. The storage of gas cylinders outside a shop in the village centre seems to present a traffic hazard, could these be relocated elsewhere?

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The best features of Kilgarvan are its beautifully landscaped areas and its heritage interest. Both of these are very strong. Your work over the next few years should address the problems presented in the presentation of the built environment and tidiness as regards derelict buildings and sites. Thank you for your continued participation.