

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILDARE**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	--
The Built Environment	40	25	--
Landscaping	40	19	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	--
Litter Control	40	14	--
Tidiness	20	9	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	--
General Impression	10	4	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>--</b>

## **KILDARE TOWN, CO. KILDARE**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome back to the Tidy towns Competition and thank you for your application. It is very evident that Kildare Town needs a Tidy Towns Committee. You have pointed out many things in your submitted application and it is good to see that you are aware of the issues facing you. Take your responsibilities one step at a time and try to encourage as many people as possible to become involved or interested. Best of luck for the coming years.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Kildare has many unique features. The cathedral was beautifully presented on the day of adjudication. The refurbishment of Market House is commendable. The Train Station was well presented but previous plating along the centre aisle of the carpark was unmaintained which was a pity. The Credit Union looked especially well as did the Church, Schools and the Health Centre. Some buildings along the main street are derelict or semi derelict. They detract from the area very much.

### **LANDSCAPING**

It is a good idea to concentrate on the Cork/Dublin road. You have identified the Tourism potential for Kildare Town. Tourists will not stop in Kildare if their first impressions are negative. Identify areas where you can start making an effort e.g. could the green area across from Murtaghs newsagents be developed? Also welcoming areas along the approach roads e.g. at the first traffic lights on the Portlaoise road (at the entrance to Modus Ireland). Well done on the planting in Market Square. Tubs and baskets were noted. Encourage businesses especially along the main thoroughfare to put out boxes and baskets. Boland's pub was particularly admired. The area outside Kildare business Park could be landscaped.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Under this heading projects can take time. Perhaps it is this area where local schools may be able to help. Awareness and education is extremely important. An art competition related to the environment, a green schools project or a general ideas competition (secondary) might be a good place to start. Pairc Naomh Bhríd was very well presented both in the grounds and at the entrance. The Japanese Gardens were second to none.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Kildare has a major litter problem and you have identified this as one of your main objectives. A poster campaign to 'Keep Kildare Tidy' might be a start (the design of this could be a school competition). The Chamber of Commerce might make

businesses aware of their responsibilities outside their premises and make the general public aware of the fine system (either the Gardaí or the local newspaper may be able to help with this). Making people aware will be your first objective. The committee will have to be prepared to organise regular clean-ups. Assess the town for the presence of bins and ask Kildare County Council to help and advise you. Ask for a copy of their Litter Management Plan and see if you can implement it in your local area. There is a lot of work to be done in this area but if the litter problem could be improved it would give the town an incentive in other areas.

## **TIDINESS**

Solving the litter problem would help this heading. Also general tidiness, removal of weeds, and the painting of derelict/semi derelict buildings would greatly improve the general tidiness.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most residences were well kept and presented. Weeds and litter were a problem in some areas e.g. Beech Grove. Rowanville looked especially well. Ruanbeg, although unfinished was very well presented. The Plains and Maryville would have looked well except for the litter.

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

Litter and weed removal would improve the marks under this heading. There are many areas, which need attention – the back roads from the train station (following the diverse signs) around White Abbey (which itself is beautiful) down by Burkes Sales and Leasing etc. But this will all improve in time. Request the help of Kildare Co. Council and in the meantime concentrate on areas where you can make some progress.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kildare is situated on an extremely busy road and no doubt the long awaited by-pass will improve the general impression greatly. Kildare has much potential and now is the time to start planning and working for your future. Remember the Tidy Towns Competition is just an incentive. Your real objective should be to develop a clean, tidy, healthy environment in which residents can live. You should encourage people to become aware and appreciate their surroundings and to care for these surroundings in order to hand them on to future generations. Get together with the various organisations and put together a plan and a town map. Well done on entering again and good luck for future years.