

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkee**

Ref: **654**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **236**

Category: **C**

Date: **10/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	34	32
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	26
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	236	233

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the documentation and map received advising of work undertaken and plans for the future. Kilkee is a beautiful sea-side resort and all its facilities were being enjoyed on a lovely June day when the Adjudicator visited. No doubt the Special Olympics Team from Uzbekistan also enjoyed their recent stay - the welcome sign and flag were noted on the Kilrush approach. Kilkee is now poised to progress further in the Competition. However, there are a number of items of concern (which will be mentioned throughout the report) holding you back. If a special effort were undertaken no doubt these could be overcome. Of course, some items such as road surfaces and roadside verges are not within your control but the Kilkee Tidy Towns Committee must endeavour to influence those who have the authority to undertake this work.

The Built Environment:

The business premises on O'Curry Street were mostly looking well and the large number of premises here with good facilities for eating outside were noted. Public buildings such as the Churches, Library and Kilkee Water World were very well presented as were the Hotels around the town. Congratulations to St. Senan's GAA Club on the painting of their premises which has brightened up the Kilrush entry to the town considerably. The Bandstand, shelters and other Promenade features were immaculate. However, work on the Boat House at the East End is still not complete. A stone wall was being built beside the shop at the Pollock Holes which will improve this area. Merton Square was well presented except for some derelict buildings to be seen to the rear of a premises on

one side of the Square. Another derelict house was to be seen on the way down from the Square to the promenade and also a derelict building was noted by the Doonbeg junction which is highly visible. The Clare Motor Works, which is for sale, will hopefully improve with new ownership. This applies also to the old Craft Showcase premises. The Old Parochial House, Clar Ellagh, Murphy's B & B and the Kilkee Thalassotherapy Centre were but a few of the buildings presented to a high standard.

Landscaping:

Planting in various areas throughout the town was admired and grassed areas by the housing estates were well maintained. This is a large commitment. The picnic areas in Kilkee were mostly well maintained (still one broken table on George's Head).

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Habitat Trail is a worthwhile accomplishment and the leaflet you are planning to produce should complement this.

Litter Control:

Litter control is mostly well managed with very little to be seen throughout the town and surrounds. However, in high season, as remarked on by the second Adjudicator last year, this might all change due to the numbers coming to Kilkee. The advent of a Traffic Warden/Litter Warden for this period, as mentioned in your report, should help to alleviate this problem and ensure that the resort is maintained to high standard at all times.

Tidiness:

All paths and kerbs were weed free throughout the town. It was noted that the untidy fencing was removed from around the grassed area near the Doonbeg junction but this still presented a rather unkempt and abandoned appearance as did the large car park off the promenade. The set back area at the Golf Club was improved but the bins and barrels were still on display. A wooden lattice fence to create a hidden loading and unloading bay here would greatly enhance this roadway/walking area up to George's Head. At Merton Square a wrecked and unsightly car was abandoned and needed removal. The large amateur type signs at the Kilkee Bay Hotel featuring Santa Claus figures and advertising the Incas Christmas Party for July struck the Adjudicator as inappropriate - mothers on holidays with small children would surely not like to be reminded of Christmas in June!

Residential Areas:

Ninety per cent of private houses, both individual and in housing estates were well presented. Also, Mobile Home Parks were neat and tidy. A few surround walls needed attention but most were well maintained. We note your point regarding vacant winter properties and the lack of commitment by the owners thereof.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces and roadside verges in Kilkee were the worst encountered by the Adjudicator this year, especially on the Loop Head drive (Dunlickey Rd). Signage was generally good throughout the town and grass banks on approach road were well maintained.

General Impression:

A delightful sea-side resort whose residents have its well being at heart. We look forward to seeing

further progress in the years ahead.

Second Round Adjudication:

The town nameplate on the Kilrush road was virtually obscured by overgrowth on the day. Most of the commercial and public premises of the town were presented to a high standard on the day and looked quite fresh. Scott's restaurant sports an attractive garden. The waterside areas were well maintained. Litter control was a problem on the day. A busy seaside town like Kilkee will have the associated problems of litter. Vigilance is what is necessary, combined with more frequent litter pick-ups and bin emptying. The waterside structures on the promenade were extremely fresh and contribute well to the presentation of this prominent area of the town.