

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildysart** Ref: **71**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **282**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	43
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>282</b>

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Ta Fáilte Romhat Kildysart - Welcome Kildysart to the Super Valu 2014 National Tidy Towns competition. 20 members is an excellent number of people have involved on your committee but it must make for a very long meetings if all members attend each meeting. You meet monthly and you also encourage the community to attend.

You list a number of agencies, bodies, and businesses that have supported you. These include public agencies and all local business and the general community. Each has helped in various ways,

We hope you circulate your parish newsletter to any minority churches in your area. You use the local media - written and radio - together with your parish website. You have regular meetings with the local schools who are involved with environmental projects.

We are delighted to hear that the competition benefits your community by making the village more attractive and welcoming to visitors, as well as contributing to the local economy.

Your map is very basic and diagrammatic, and we would ask you to submit a more detailed map for 2015. The map should show all important buildings and should show and name each housing estate as well as showing each and every project completed for the year of entry. You might ask for some assistance with this perhaps from the local authority.

We do not appear to have received a Tidy Towns plan from you. We would encourage you to submit a Tidy Towns plan – a three or five-year plan will focus your mind on what you can hope to achieve. A plan need not be prepared professionally, but you should consult locally in preparing such a plan. You should also consider any statutory and non-statutory plans applicable to Kildysart in drawing up your work programme. Please refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for advice in relation to the preparation of a three or five-year plan. It is essential to progress in the competition and to gain extra marks under this particular category that you submit such a plan in 2015.

### **Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:**

You have an excellent village from a vernacular architectural point-of-view, and you seem to appreciate this fact – as properties are ninety per cent presented at their best. We would ask you to continue to conserve this valuable asset, and we would suggest that you let the buildings 'speak for themselves' and limit the hanging basket attachments. Hanging baskets can be used where there is less to display - or bad things to hide – but you have a lovely streetscape. You do not want to hide it behind foliage - or damage it by inserting metal into the building fabric. Neither do you want to rot the good timber sash windows with watering of such baskets. The aerial photograph of

the village on The Square information board gives a great impression of the traditional layout character of the centre of the village.

The Alders pub was well presented and it is located on a strategic corner. We particularly admired its timber sash windows. Centra is a lovely building and is well maintained, but too much storage of goods on the footpath detracted from its appearance. Such storage causes obstruction to footpath users, and particularly to wheelchair or buggy users. Further along the street the Hogan shop had even more external displays - which extended right out onto the street itself.

The colour treatment of the Corner Bar was dramatic and very effective on the street corner leading to the quay. O' Grady's is well presented, and once again we admired the retention of the traditional sash windows at the upper floor level. The adjacent ochre and brown painted property also looked very well. The Health Centre is a neat building with a good ramp, but the black handrails need repainting. The 'hotel' Donnellan's has been given a facelift.

Chambers and adjacent properties are well maintained. The Kildysart information board at the top of The Square gives lots of information about the area, and also appropriately describes some of the built heritage. The Golden Pizza building is well presented and at upper floor level the traditional sash windows looked very well against the painted green front elevation. P Mc Mahon chemists was simply presented and admired.

One of our favourite shop fronts was the lovely J O' Dea shop with its now rare marble lettering. Full marks to the owner for the excellent condition in which this property is kept. The Post Office was neatly presented. Original Roots adjacent was also a well cared for. The large building near the Post Office (which we think possibly was a bank) is a fine building, but the projecting external lighting detracts from its appearance.

The Eircom building has been painted and it looked resplendent. Will the incomplete structure on the Main Street be completed in the near future? This is downhill of the bed and breakfast premises.

We admired the old AA the sign on the garage. Could the roof of the garage be repainted and could the petrol diesel/sign holder be attended to? The petrol pumps at the front and the side of the garage could also be given a facelift. The name sign on the garage is a little faded.

We admired some good stone walling between the Garda Station and the village. The Garda Station itself was very well maintained and had a nice floral display along the front elevation.

Harry's shop and bistro seemed closed, and there were weeds in the gutter. The stone bridge on the Labbasheeda approach is another element in your good built environment.

On the Quay road there are two elongated adjacent attached sheds - one with a flat roof and one with a red corrugated roof. The walls of these sheds would benefit from repainting and the removal of some materials placed in front of the red-roofed shed.

The community centre looked well apart from the very poor Squash Club sign.

The community school is a well-designed modern building, and it is really well maintained and set in lovely landscaped grounds. We admired its Green Flag and the other two clean flags flying proudly at the entrance.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

We are sure that your spring daffodils looked really well. Perhaps next year you could send as one photograph of your spring blooms. You have since planted summer flowers. FAS trim grass verges.

The Grotto on the Ballynacally Road has been upgraded and newly landscaped. The grotto is beautifully sited in natural surroundings, and we would strongly suggest that you plant rock plants along the escarpment leading up to the grotto, and take away the plastic white planters. However your care and attention to the Grotto is unquestionable.

The trees beside the main road to the Quay looked really well. The Quay area itself would benefit from resurfacing. The shore angling information board, together with the adjacent wild life data was interesting. Evidence of weed killer was noticeable in this area. The red and black barrel planters on the raised circular gravel bed were bursting with colour in their floral displays. We read about Walsh's supplier boat with interest. A battered field gate should be replaced with a painted field gate at the corner of the Quay area. It was a lovely sunny afternoon when we visited, and it was great to see so many of the young people enjoying the delightful planted grassed area with picnic tables beyond the Quay. You planted six native trees at the picnic area on the Quay recently. When one proceeded to the cul-de-sac end of this road the scene was less engaging, as this head-of-the-road area needs upgrading. No doubt in due course you will also get around to doing this.

Your central hard landscaped area in The Square including your sculpture is extremely well cared for, apart from one maroon coloured seat which appears to have 'lost' part of its back rest.

## **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

You recognise the fact that you live in an area of conservation.

We admired the information boards at the Quay and in The Square. You have had expert advice from various bodies in relation to your habitats. We found the information board at the square to be interesting in relation to birdlife, but we would have liked to see some of the names also recorded in Irish. You know that you have vast resources in your area and we will be looking forward to progress in this area in relation to survey, interpretation and management. We suggest that you consult the Heritage Office and the Biodiversity Officer of your local authority in relation to how to move forward with plans. You should also read the Tidy Towns Handbook which is quite detailed on this category. The Heritage Council's 'Wildlife in Towns and Villages' booklet is also a useful resource. Engaging with schools (or colleges) on even elementary nature study surveys can lead in time to the further analysis and interpretation/presentation of the findings. We understand that Clare County Council has launched a biodiversity plan for the county. We suggest that you look into this plan and see how you can be part of the overall future of Clare's biodiversity.

It appears that weed killer had been used in various places and on approach roads. This is not good for the environment. We would encourage you to consider nonchemical methods of weed control. If you speak to your County Heritage Officer, we are sure that you would be well advised in this matter.

## **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

We note your battery recycling and your newspaper recycling. You harvest rainwater for your floral baskets. You have an awareness of energy conservation. The primary school has obtained a Green Flag and the community college has also been awarded their second Green Flag.

Information from businesses and schools in relation to waste reduction is noted. This information refers to what is waste and what is recyclable. These are all admirable projects, but recycling is only part of 'the story'. Sustainable waste and resource management is about trying not to produce waste in the first case. The Environmental Awareness Officer in your local authority would be an excellent contact to help you to put a programme together in relation to this topic. Perhaps you may be able to attend a sustainable waste and resource management seminar. In the meanwhile look at the Tidy Towns Handbook, and the revised guidelines on this topic - which were sent out with your Entry Form in 2013. Now that you have the businesses involved you might begin to work with them to see where they might prevent some aspect of their waste production to begin with.

## **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

The overall impression of the village is one of neatness and orderliness.

The Kildysart Enterprise Centre lets the standard drop somewhat for your village. The entrance area is very weedy and the walls require repainting. The entire site appears to have been weeded chemically and is now a huge area of scorched vegetation. This looks very poorly on one of the roads to the Quay. There is a structure on the site from which the slate/tiles have been removed. This area detracts from the tidy road which it fronts. A seat at the junction of this road with the main road is rather rough, with concrete blocks and a wooden plank.

We noted your 'keep our village litter free' signs. FÁS patrols daily. Bins are emptied regularly. Certainly you seem to have the 'upper hand' on litter. Well done! To further your work here and also to improve your marks you could put a Litter Management Plan together. Have a look at the County Litter Management Plan and you will get some ideas. This can then be included in your Tidy Towns Plan.

You have no graffiti and very minimal advertising.

You had a very successful Spring Clean in April and both schools participated. Well done to the schoolchildren who get involved with the annual Spring Clean.

The bring bank is now being maintained by the Tidy Towns committee. The notice on the blue bin needs replacing, and the green metal bin was rusty. The base is quite dirty between the various bins. The entire bin complex was very bare sited against the Community Centre wall. Some planting would be appropriate.

There was an illegible fly post outside the playground and two plastic bottles noted also. Otherwise the playground was well presented with a good litter bin.

A black litter bin near the Health Centre requires a new notice as the existing notice is peeling. A black and red seat outside a premises on the street badly needed repainting.

## **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

On the outer part of the Ballynacally approach there was an estate on a hill which had no name plate or name boulder. However this estate was neat and well presented. Gardens on the right-hand side as one approached the village road looked well landscaped but a terrace of five new houses looked very bare. Would it be possible to plant the gravel beds here?

You say that you still have a problem with the partially completed estate beside the Garda Station. You have made it

presentable and safe until further action can be taken. It still detracts from the village approaches, The senior citizen houses on the Kilrush road and Main Street have also been painted. Well done on this good initiative!

Off the Kilrush road there was a large housing estate with a nice stone wall and footpath but no name. This housing estate was well presented. There was another housing estate nearer the village with a boulder, but the board had no name inscribed. The corner of this and the terrace of the new houses street-side were weedy.

You say that Cluain Chormaic estate has a very active community and that Glenanna is kept to high standard. But as these estates had no names on the ground - nor on your map - we can only say that we visited all estates, and you will have to match the comments with the relevant estates -as we describe where each was located.

We liked the house name 'Abhaile', and this, and your use of Irish on your litter signs is commended. However we would add that the road frontage at this house needs finishing/tidying.

A terrace of houses along the Main Street with dormer windows looked well. A bright yellow seat was placed outside one of the houses on the terrace. Further downhill we saw another yellow seat - a child's - a lovely yellow window grille, and a cheerful yellow gate.

Well presented cream colour single story houses were admired downhill of the Eircom building.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

The village name sign on the on the Ballynacally approach is the generic County Clare village sign. We read on this that Kildysart is a Fisherman's Haven! This sign was very simply - but very classically presented in a lovely grassy recess. We noted what appeared to be the remains of chemical weed treatment on a soil bank. Please see our comments in relation to chemical weed treatment under Wildlife. Beyond the grotto there was a very rough hard shoulder - at the end of which was your planted raised bed with another Kildysart sign. Perhaps this sign requesting the traveller to drive slowly could be incorporated in some way with the first sign. A proliferation of signs at the entry to a village is not desirable. Across the road from this there was a long stretch of yellowed vegetation in front of a cream colour single story house at the road edge. We assume this was from chemical weeding treatment. The boundary wall here needs repainting. The landscaped triangular space at the junction to the left beyond this point looked well.

We saw the Green Flag flying proudly at the very neat school. We noted the block wall which is being faced with stone. A few pieces of litter were noted between planted beds and trees as one approached the village. Some stones in the stone wall needed replacing. The red roof of a corrugated shed on the right-hand side would benefit from repainting. This is an important site as it is on the edge of the village. Opposite the terrace of five new houses a pink wall needs recapping at one point and also repainting. We noticed a 'headless' road sign opposite Kildysart motors. Either the relevant sign should be re attached or the pole should be removed.

On the Kilrush Road there was a small lotto hoarding. A nice planted raised bed on the left-hand side just past the 50 K pH speed limit looked well. Opposite the housing estate with a boulder, but no name, we observed a well planted shrub bed.

On the Labasheeda approached we noticed a bird box on a tree at the 50 K pH speed limit sign. We admired the nice simple raised flower bed on this approach and the 'Ná fág bruscair' sign. Some trimming was required on the left-hand side, and there was a nice stone wall on the right-hand side. The bridge was a bit weedy at the GAA. We agree with last year's adjudicator in relation to the bright blue colouring on the GAA boundary wall and possible climbing shrub to soften the effect.

You have eventually succeeded in getting the Kilrush Road resurfaced. This involved footpath renewal also. Hedges and verges are trimmed on all approach roads. Remember not to cut hedges during the nesting season on non cultivated ground.

Footpaths throughout the village were clean.