

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: Killimer	Ref: 74
County: Clare	Mark: 268
Category: A	Date(s): 19/06/2014

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	7
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29
TOTAL MARK	450	268

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ta Fáilte Romhat Cill Iomair! Welcome Killimer to the Super Valu 2014 National Tidy Towns competition.

Thank you for your neatly completed Entry Form. You have seven members on your committee, who meet once a month or oftener if required. Your list of agencies, bodies and businesses who help you include: Clare County Council, Shannon Ferries and other local businesses. Killimer is very important village - due to its function as a ferry crossing between County Clare and County Kerry. You have a bigger throughput of visitors than most small Irish villages, which gives you an extra responsibility, but also additional potential.

You use the parish newsletter, posters and e-mail to communicate with the community. We hope that you include any minority churches which may be represented in your area in your newsletter distribution. Have you considered a website or a Facebook page? Both help to engage the younger generation, and keep an interest in your work alive and easily accessible to the community and to visitors alike.

We are glad that you have a liaison member with the school. You say that the work you do has made the community more aware of the environment. We note from the included letter from Burrane National School that you contributed an appreciated €200 towards the cost of the school garden. Is the school involved in the Green Flag programme?

Thank you for your site location maps to 2 different scales and for your village map. The village map should show the projects for this adjudication year - numbered - as they should be numbered sequentially through the Entry Form. You submitted a strategic improvements plan drawing (not to scale) dated May 2013, and a one-page written document in relation to this plan, which only shows the proposed location of the proposed urban enclosure highlighted on the village map. You have also submitted another slightly more detailed layout (again not to scale) of this proposed public open space. No elevational drawings or details of the type of sculpture, materials etc. have been submitted. You stated that it will be completed by the end of September. On adjudication day there was no indication year - which adjudication year extends from 1st June 2013 to 31st May 2014. We assume that you will submit further details with next year's entry. We wish you every success with it. We do not seem to have received a Tidy Towns plan from you - other than the drawing which shows a dozen or so projects - the proposed development dates of which are not indicated. You should lay out a written plan document in a three or five-year time period, and your plan should follow the category headings within the competition. This can be a simple document. It focuses your mind when you have to consider time-scales and it helps you to be realistic. It is to your credit however that you have a map/drawing to accompany your plan.

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

We appreciate the fact that the severe storms earlier this year meant a lot of restoration work had to be carried out to walls and boundaries. Such are your works under this category heading for this year. It would be helpful if you had indicated the exact location of these works on your village map.

We would complement the ferry company and yourselves on the condition in which they and you keep the buildings and their curtilages/surrounds so well. So often in many places one finds a ferry terminal unkempt, but this is not the case here.

Your strategic improvements plan recommends urgent attention to the historic church and graveyard. Have you contacted the Architectural Conservation Officer in your local authority in this regard?

Your dry stone walls are a great feature of your village environs.

The Old Brogue public house is very well presented, and we admired the raised gravel bed opposite and the green behind.

The Colleen Bawn statue is of particular interest.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Ongoing maintenance of fuchsia hedging is highly effective, as the fuchsia hedging - particularly on the approach from Kilrush is dramatic. You have replaced storm damaged trees and shrubs and carried out some bedding planting, and planted spring flowers. We note your work in conjunction with the graveyard committee on the new graveyard.

At the ferry area we admired the lovely grassed spaces and simple landscaping with pebble edged paths at the Wild Atlantic Way sign. The picnic table looked well, but the white seats could be repainted before next year. The hedging on the way down to the ferry is very good.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Your mature hedges certainly are an important wildlife corridor, and we are happy to see that you are planting with a view to encouraging wildlife, and providing for habitats. We are unsure as to what you mean by the need to review your re-planting in relation to provision for wildlife. The two should not be mutually exclusive. We would strongly recommend that you consult your County Heritage Officer and your County Biodiversity Officer for advice on this. We suggest you speak to the County Heritage Officer in any event who will give you advice and encouragement on all aspects of wildlife and natural amenities. 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 the schools on even elementary nature study surveys can lead in time to the further analysis and interpretation/presentation of the findings. As you live in such an environmentally rich area with the estuary and unspoiled countryside - you have the potential to enjoy it and learn more about your habitats, as well as increasing your marks in this category very readily. We understand that Clare County Council has published 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 County Clare's bio diversity.

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

Your annual 'Scrap Saturday' was held with great success – although you do not give us a date or month on/in which it was held. We trust however that it was held during this year's adjudication period referred to above. Your clothes bank is used, and you tell us that you are actively encouraging water conservation. Please let us know more detail about how you conduct this water conservation encouragement campaign next year. We are glad to see that your new mower mulches the grass.

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Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on the erection of the dry stone wall fronting the farm yard at the centre of the village. You have taken last year's adjudicators comments on board in relation to this. We hope to see the further screening in place by next year.

Your weed control is looked after by your TÚS workers. We hope that you try to use nonchemical methods of weed control. Your County Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer would again be useful contacts in relation to this work.

You have encouraged people to adopt their own area and you report that this has been a great success.

Your Rochford's shore amenity area, which had become a dumping ground has been cleaned, and you hope to have cameras installed there, but in the meantime you have engaged with the community to 'police' the area. Well done on this work!

You do not complain about the extra work which the constant throughput of traffic through your village must cause you in relation to potential littering.

This adjudicator considers that there were too many fly posts on the way down to the ferry from the village. One fly post near the junction of the ferry terminal and the village – as one approached the village – was for a hotel a considerable distance from Killimer, and it referred to an event at that hotel between 31st May and 1st June. So, as well as being in a location which is far from the premises it referred to, it was also out of date.

In the village the red Texaco sign would benefit from repainting

We noted a small scatter of litter on the way in from Kilrush on the right-hand side, inwards of the large splayed entrance.

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

You will continue to work with Woodview residents to help maintain the public areas. Last year's adjudicator suggested that a sign could be put in place with the name of the housing estate. We note that you hope to install signage here when funding permits. This project is listed on your strategic improvements plan drawing. This is a relatively small project even in a small village and we would expect that you can complete it before next year. Talk to the County Heritage Officer about including the Irish version of the estate name. Woodview estate itself is very well presented with lovely mature trees fronting the main road. The dry flat stone walls and mowed grass along the verges of the roadside in the vicinity of this estate looked very well.

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

You maintain the grass verges and strim approach roads where appropriate. The wonderful clean sweep of road with its lovely simple grass banking near the name sign for the village of Killimer (as one approaches from Kilrush) is a terrific introduction to the village. This impression is further augmented by the incredible length of fuchsia hedging which you so carefully maintain. A small unattractive feature is a bent – probably traffic damaged -bed and-breakfast sign – which is located on the roadside verge beside a lovely flat dry stone wall.

All road signs throughout the village are in good condition. Near the Slí na Sláinte sign we noted some stones falling out of a wall near the junction. On both sides of the old cemetery the wall needs repair in places. Both the old and the new cemetery look well on the approach road from Kilmurray McMahon/Ennis and on this approach also the Legion of Mary monument requires repainting.