

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiskeam** Ref: **654**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **303**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2014**

|   | <b>Maximum<br/>Mark</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded 2014</b> |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning          | 60                      | 42                           |
| Built Environment and Streetscape         | 50                      | 43                           |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces               | 50                      | 44                           |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities  | 50                      | 30                           |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50                      | 12                           |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90                      | 66                           |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 50                      | 32                           |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 50                      | 34                           |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>450</b>              | <b>303</b>                   |

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

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a very clear and complete submission which included a concise but focussed 3-Year Plan and an excellent map of your area. The last item is often underrated in terms of importance but for the adjudication day, it is crucial. Thanks also for the pictures, worth a lot too, these. They place many things in context and give a sense of the area throughout the year. Reading the first part of your submission, it's hard to equate today's Kiskeam with that ultimate runner-up of another era. You've come a long, long way. This adjudicator would echo some of the comments of last year in terms of your activity and forward thinking. Your involvement is total, it seems and widespread across your village. Good to read that you've an active headmistress but prepare her successor now as the baton will one day pass. In the same way, the young people will move into your ranks over time.

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

The Community Hall looked well on adjudication day. Works were underway here on the car-park surfacing and this will make a huge difference. Players made their way through here for training but the lush trees here seemed to swallow them up. As commented upon last year, this is an example of the lovely interface that exists here in Kiskeam between the built and the natural. The old creamery is now something of an exhibit. Well done to the artist/(s). The national school's veranda is in need of painting. The front area could look much better. Your expertise might be needed here. The rusty satellite dish doesn't add much to the building. Lehane's Food Store looked well but might look better if the faded signage (e.g. for bottled gas) were removed. The Church looked really great. The planting in front of the church is gorgeous and was being tended to on adjudication day. The old shop is now painted mint-green and looked very well cared-for. Both pubs looked the part. The Why Not injects a modern take and delivers it with very sharp definition and neatness. More traditional, Casey's is very well kept. So also is the unnamed shop.

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

Surely your best area in terms of this category is to be found by the river. The grotto is beautifully done. The amenity area is well-planned and has a sculpted feel. However, more planting will improve this area and take away the slight feeling of bareness here. The picnic area and Peace Park have some maturing to do too but both are being tended to well. The former might benefit from some edging to the gravelled area here.

The Stone Circle is most unusual, The adjudicator really likes the way notable figures, stories and even species are recalled here. The work at the pump was admired. The planters at the Why Not have this adjudicator torn. They, and the name of the establishment tend to grow on one. As for the hag, it was love at first site.

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

The River Walk is your gem. The river is a wonderful natural resource but the path and associated features add greatly to the user's experience. It was hugely enjoyed by the adjudicator and must surely be a great amenity addition for your community. As per last year's adjudicator, this adjudicator didn't seek out the artificial wildlife refugia (well, not much) and takes your word for their presence, correct location and maintenance. Are they checked regularly? This would be a great project for a Transition Year student. Well done on your linkage with the IRD LIFE project. A bat-box was noted by the stone circle, well-sited adjacent the river here. Are barn owls really commonly sighted here? We do hope that you are informing Birdwatch Ireland of this because that is a significant finding.

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

Your actions listed in the entry form are all very valid for this category. Some extra points will go your way for this. For more next year, please let us know how the information evenings went and which of the projects you'll be taking up in the coming year. The wastematches.com initiative is excellent, can you give us any good matches achieved?

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

Well done on your litter control work. For a village with a daily through-put of who-knows-how-many, to achieve effective litter-free status is exceptional.

A bit of Harris fencing appears to have been forgotten at the trail head on the lower road. The clothes banks are clean but do you need all of these? Weed control was excellent nearly throughout. It would be fair to say that Kiskeam is tidy.

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

It's no exaggeration to say that some of - actually, nearly all of - the private houses are of an exemplary standard. In fact, this was one of the significant features of Kiskeam for this adjudicator. Colours are great (sometimes bold) and the standard of work is very high. Your efforts on the upkeep of some unoccupied houses (e.g. on the Old Lane) are very much appreciated. What is the little black and white symbol painted here?

Moylan Park was bright and busy on the day with lots of children outside playing. A good sign.

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

There is a lovely approach from Boherbue. The verges are very well kept but suitably for a rural village, not overly manicured or landscaped. The red and green IRD signage is probably past its sell-by date. The graveyard wall has been recently painted and it looks as well kept as the graveyard itself. Fr Griffin Bridge is a very practical monument and looks well. The church car-park is very neat. However the site alongside appears to be disused and is becoming overgrown.