

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killeagh** Ref: **180**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **249**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
TOTAL MARK	450	249

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Killeagh is most welcome to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form and map. Your map is deserving of special praise for its clarity and colour coding used for different project areas. All the information needed by the adjudicator is there at a glance. You have a good number on your committee and are engaging with a range of regional support agencies. The communication tools range from traditional to digital and social media and this is excellent. Do make sure your Facebook page is updated regularly in order to draw the traffic into it.

Involvement with your local school is essential but it should be more than just an opportunity to promote awareness of litter issues. There are valuable projects under the wildlife and/or waste minimisation areas that could be undertaken. A simple three-year plan would greatly increase your standing in the contest. Such a plan would involve consultation with your community on the vision for Killeagh. Actions are then identified under each of the contest headings that would help you achieve this vision. This approach allows you to be ambitious but also helps in breaking down big tasks into manageable chunks.

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

Your historic graveyard project is excellent and adds to the knowledge and appreciation of your town's history. While derelict sites may well be privately owned there are responsibilities on these owners to maintain their properties. You are urged to inventory those areas in need of action and work with Cork county council on addressing them in a systematic fashion. Some owners may not be in a position to make material changes so and offer practical help from your group may assist in moving things forward. St John the Baptist church is superbly presented and beautiful displays of roses were admired throughout grounds. The old thatch is a landmark for the town and is presented to its usual high standard. The Main Street is looking very well and the attractive colour scheme of its main buildings was admired. The community centre is a fine building and an important facility for the town. No amount of flowers however will disguise the poor state of the surfacing around it or the dire amount of litter. A discarded traffic cone and dirty signage add to this scene of neglect. The beautiful old church and graveyard next door are being used as a storage/dumping area for all and sundry. Your town's heritage should be worth more than this.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The new picnic areas of the playground are a nice touch. Wonderful displays of colour were admired travelling across the beautiful old stone bridge. The nice pump feature on the Mogeely road was nicely decorated with begonias. The Main Street meanwhile benefits greatly from an abundance of suitable trees, providing year-round impact. Well done to those businesses, for example Centra, who made the effort to hang out colourful displays of flowers.

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

This category encourages local communities to engage with their natural heritage. Raising awareness of important habitat features is crucial if they are to be protected for the long-term. With Glenbower Wood on your doorstep there is ample opportunity for school projects centring on art or science. The county branch of the IWT regularly holds guided walks here, why not get involved with them and perhaps embark on a joint project? It is good to read that you recognise the value of fallen wood in forest ecosystems and are not being too fastidious in maintaining a tidy appearance. There is an infestation of Japanese knotweed on the river bordering on lands at the garage. This is an aggressive alien invasive species and well-meaning attempts to cut it down can actually help to spread it. You are urged to consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland on best practice in eradicating it. It will require spraying with herbicide repeatedly, perhaps annually for up to 3 years. Under no circumstances should it be cut back or manually removed.

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

You are commended for attending the community talks on energy-saving and water conservation. Do give an indication of what you took from this and if it led to any projects or changes in behaviour among those who attended. Does your town have a separate brown bin collection? Even if it does home composting is worth promoting. It is linked to the issue of food waste so perhaps you could highlight this problem and potential solutions. Does your school have a green flag? If it does its achievements should be listed here in full. Their initiatives on water conservation and rainwater harvesting are excellent and worth emulating throughout the community. For helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done for participating in the annual spring clean as this is a great event for volunteer action. Do give an indication of the level of broader community involvement in the event. You are commended for making contact with local auctioneers with regard to old signage and do continue to be vigilant in this regard. Last year's adjudicator made remarks regarding the condition of the bring bank, how was this dealt with? Do watch out for fly posting or ad hoc advertising on lampposts etc. These should be removed immediately. Anti-dog fouling signs carry a positive message but do risk adding to clutter after a while. A garage on the Mogeely road has a smashed window and is storing old tyres on the footpath. They should be kindly asked to store these in a more appropriate location. J. Tattan's is a nice pub but old and dilapidated beer ads should be removed. Fogarty Bros have a nice tidy exterior but cars should not be part on the footpath. The bring bank was once again in a bad way with dumped bags and general litter. Litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard (bring bank notwithstanding).

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

This category does not necessarily infringe upon people's private dwellings but is more to do with the appearance of common areas, boundary walls and maintenance of landscaped areas. Do work in cooperation with Cork county council on appearance issues with regards to unfinished estate. Well done for landscaping an area in Lawrence Kelly Tce and this looks great. The lovely small estate of houses was admired on the Mount Uniacle road but did not appear to have name. The situation at Killeagh Gardens is particularly critical, not just because of its appearance but also because of the tragic loss of amenity to the residents and their children. This must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Individual homes however are well presented and residents must be commended for their perseverance in the face of adversity.

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

The approach from Youghal has a nice name sign and hedges are mostly well cut back. There is extensive evidence of herbicide use and this should be avoided. It is very bad for the environment and leaves behind unsightly dead vegetation. There are areas along this stretch also that have crash barriers etc that seem like they are no longer required. If this is the case they should be removed. The brown sign for Glenbower Wood was admired from the town centre. The volume and speed of through traffic is inescapable in Killeagh and pedestrian crossings are obvious by their absence. Much of the parking seems to be on footpaths and this could be avoided through clear painting of on street parking spaces.