

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killorglin** Ref: **341**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **269**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **05/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	46
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>269</b>

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

Thank you for the filled up Entry Form, three year plan and map supplied plus support material. I note you have 11 members in your committee, and plenty of meetings are held to monitor progress and plan ahead. You are getting great assistance from the agencies, bodies and businesses that are listed, and it is pleasing to find that you are getting good support from Fexco the large employer in Killorglin. The local people are well informed of your activities. You are complimented for the close links with the schools as outlined in your submission. There is undoubtedly great community spirit built up in the locality through your huge efforts at making Killorglin a better and safer place to live in. This is a good approach to the competition.

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

On entering the town we first of all see the King Puck sculpture; it is a splendid setting and good information is inscribed on the stones there, the railing around the sculpture needs to be painted for general maintenance and aesthetics. The business houses are maintained to a high standard and when we mention some we surely leave out others that are just as good, Sheehans in Main Street and O'Sheas in Langford Street looked well and it was disappointing to witness the results of the fire that destroyed some buildings and hopefully business can resume in these places soon again. I admired the Sewing Rooms, O' Donoghue Solicitors and the Dental surgeon. Eamonn Sheahan's shop is beautiful and the Manor Inn is a nice cut-stone house. At the back of the nice resource centre we admire raised beds for vegetables, a children's playground and two fitness machines. The Fire Brigade place is neat and orderly with some good trees at the outside. Fexco has a landmark building maintained to a very high standard. There is a nice plaque and replica of a train with good history etched there giving details of GSWR. St Michael's Church of Ireland is a lovely church with great landscaping and down further the Catholic Church is splendid and we read all about a great man Rev Thomas Lawlor. The community hall is beautiful. Some dereliction is noted and other places are for sale but this is no different from many other places in Ireland. The schools are well maintained and a credit to the teachers, children and staff. The community care centre is very good.

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

Landscaping is admired in lots of places especially near the King Puck sculpture. I liked the cart and churns on the Tralee road and they remind us of farming methods of the locality down through the years. Landscaping on the Cahirciveen road is nice but I felt out far in that recess with the large stones that some ground cover shrubs could be planted such as Dogwood. There is an impressive array of young and mature trees all over the town. The Laune Rangers place is beautiful and a credit to the club, and I loved the railing there. Neat tubs of shrubs and flowers are admired like on the entrance to the primary school, in the car park and at other locations. The plaque for the Kerry Militia needs to have the lettering sharpened up. There are some great stone walls all around the town that integrate

well with the native Irish environment, and dry stone walls harbour large quantities of insects and wildlife. There is nice landscaping outside Richard Boyle & Sons. This is a large area to cover with landscaping and your efforts are admired.

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

We congratulate you for making this positive move on the bio-diversity of Killorglin, sourcing the €5,000 under the direction of Mike Ahern and then getting Billy Flynn down to assist you all. I read the impressive description of the project running from early September to late November and the three public nature walks and workshops brings the people into contact with nature. We all need proper training and education and hopefully this most professional approach will further raise the awareness of the children and adults of Killorglin. The schoolchildren played an active role by attending the outings and lectures and making boxes, 25 garden bird boxes and 4 owl boxes. There are some lovely walks to enjoy the wildlife and habitats of the area. I was interested to observe two different types of wading birds at the Puck's monument and thought that it could be nice to have an identification board erected there to assist with the identification of the birds of the area. Could one of these birds have been a bittern as it made a shrill cry?

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

The Christmas tree shredding is applauded and means that trees are not dumped on the side of the roads as we see elsewhere. I saw the waste being segregated as outlined earlier. Using the KTT composter is excellent and better again good to find that management of the composting is overseen. We see in many areas where material is left at the composting bins in a haphazard fashion, and as you know there is a bit to be learned about composting like the mixing of brown and green material, turning it etc. With the schools involved in the green flag programmes the children, teachers and parents will have a better understanding on proper management of the local environment. Susan Vickers is doing great work on the reduction of chemical use in the homes, and other green initiatives. We note the activities of the local businesses to have a responsible attitude in relation to waste disposal. The 12 bins at the park are well serviced and clean and orderly and nice to see the containers for shrubs and flowers adding freshness and colour to the centre.

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

I read over the management plan and a huge effort is put in to keep the town's litter and tidiness up to standard. We note you took part in the National Spring clean up and other initiatives and the town and surrounding area is all the better for your efforts, and the advertising of the event was impressive. On my visit to your town there were people with TT high viz jackets cleaning brushing and sweeping and I was impressed to see the material being segregated, all happening at nine o'clock at night, excellent. It is disappointing to find that dumping was taking place in your area, but it can happen anywhere if we are not vigilant. The correct procedure is to take a photograph of the material and notify the environment section of the County Council, show them the photo and tell them where it is, we must never touch or interfere with what is found, and the County Council staff could examine it and try to get evidence of ownership of the offending material, and if they do they have powers to tackle the offenders, and maybe fine them. All of this is done without any involvement of your committee once the material is reported to the Council. The combined efforts involving KTT, homes, businesses and schools mean that a responsible attitude is adopted by all. We note your connections with RTE programme makers and this surely spreads the message nationally.

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

I visited a sample of the all the estates and they are maintained impressively and the resident's committees are working well to present the estates in a satisfactory fashion. Lynch Heights has well kept houses and extensive lawns and from this point there are wonderful views of the mountains in the background. I was delighted to find in the Cloverfield / Iveragh vicinity a plaque commemorating the visit of Mary McAleese to Killorglin – lovely. The inter-estates competition is a good initiative and instils in people a great pride of place attitude. The town houses are maintained to a high standard and on the outskirts we admire some first class residences with arrays of shrubs, flowers and lawns and all of this combines with the other agencies and bodies plus of course your splendid effort to present the town at its best.

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

Killorglin County bridge 1885 is a splendid eight arch structure and we see here unique architectural qualities that has meant that this bridge has stood up well to the test of time. Good parking facilities facilitate traffic management, and the likes of the one at SuperValu is a good example, and the one way street system is working well. I liked the little road down by the catholic church going towards the river with the concrete seating and there is a splendid stone wall at the side of the church park. Bollards help with traffic flow and parking restrictions. Road surfaces are generally quite good but the road was somewhat uneven for a stretch outside the GAA grounds to Richard Boyle & Sons, and New Line Road will shortly need attention. There are some splendid stone walls giving effective boundary and splendid rural aesthetics. Good quality bilingual signs give a nice welcoming effect as we arrive at the outskirts.