

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballitore** Ref: **840**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **235**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	4
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	41
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>235</b>

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

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014. We have noted that your committee numbers vary from 6 to 10 with a further 6 on the Abbeyfield committee and that you do not hold regular meetings throughout the year but do come together to work on floral displays and other projects. The younger Abbeyfield committee is focussed on having their estate completed and that residents maintain their own gardens and associated grass margins. We note your links with Kildare County Council and the method of working with the schools through parents. The use of Facebook and news-letters is noted and that you also have a local network of using telephones and of course word of mouth to inform your community of your various plans and to seek their support. Many thanks for attaching the map of the area with the important areas marked. We do encourage communities to aim for a 3 year plan because it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years.

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

Ballitore has buildings of mixed design and condition. Butterfield's pub needs a touch-up. The houses in the Main Street were in good condition as were the Museum and Library. The Meeting House is well maintained. A derelict premises on the square was noted. The Arches and pump feature seems to be a meeting place for local youths. Mill Celtic FC looked well

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

The character of Ballitore is a treeless village but we note that some trees were planted in what appears to be drainage pipes. There is little chance of these trees ever achieving much so we advise that you seek advice on a suitable tree planting scheme for the village. The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and in your case it is important that tree planting respects the integrity of the village and that suitable specimens are planted into the ground in accordance with best practice. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. In that regard, the mix of species on the approach from Timolin is less satisfactory than if one species were used. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible. The use of permanent planting is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. Empty or poorly planted containers are less effective than no plant container. In that regard, some plant containers are poorly planted. Also, plastic containers don't suit the materials of the stone wall and pump area. We suggest using a space in a corner outside Glanbia near the bridge for a floral display instead of the containers on the bridge which are more demanding in time and water usage.

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

You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. List the plants and animals to be found in your natural environment and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This would be a very useful project for schools. Wild flowers in the field adjacent to Ballitore Hill look very well

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

This category is becoming more and more important and the available marks are now increased to 50 to highlight the need for communities to address the issues involved in tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero waste society. Your town can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated. Contact your waste contractors who can help with this. Try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Examine the waste pyramid and note that recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reduction and re-use. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. In regard to water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an over use of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. We note that you have not listed any projects for this year under this category and encourage you to consider some of the ideas mentioned above and improve your marks next year.

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

You are fortunate to have community workers to assist your works programmes, especially in maintaining the area clean and tidy. Some weeds were growing at kerbs and footpaths. Opposite an unnamed estate, a hayshed needs painting and a rusty gate beside the estate caught our attention. Litter observed at the junction with Thoran Road. Crookstown Mill sign was dirty.

An old rusty pole on Ballitore Hill should be removed. The derelict building opposite the Museum and Library is being used for advertising posters (Spanish holidays). Glanbia is a fine building. We advise removal of a dead tree to the right of the entrance.

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

In general, individual houses in the village are well maintained. An unnamed residential estate has a boundary wall that needs repair and tree stakes need to be removed. Houses and gardens looked well.

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

On Thoran Road, weeds spoil the entrance sign. The Community Alert sign needs to be replaced. On Ballitore Hill there is an old stone wall with hawthorn hedge and Toadflax growing over it and this looks well.