

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkea** Ref: **372**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **251**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	32
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	5
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29
TOTAL MARK	450	251

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and we note that you have participated since 1980. We have noted that your committee of six people hold a few meetings throughout the year and have links with Kilkea Community Alert and aim to form a stronger alliance. You receive support from Kildare County Council and FAS. Many thanks for your sketch map of the area. Perhaps you could add some more detail to it for next year. . Please consider the preparation of a 3 year plan by identifying suitable projects under the eight criteria of the competition and deciding on phasing of their implementation. This would help you to get sponsorship. We are pleased that you find the competition useful as a focus in making Kilkea a better place in which to live.

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

The lodges and church are good stone buildings and there is a nice wall with mature trees to the front of the church. It is a pity to see Kilkea Castle closed and its amenity value not being availed of. The castle gates need painting as does the lodge inside. The grass in this area is well maintained and the town pump looks very well but unfortunately, the seat between the pump and the castle gates is broken. The National School looks very well and fits in well with the village. There are nice trees around it and we noted the two Green Flags. Congratulations to teachers and pupils. The railings would benefit from refreshing. Opposite the church, we admired the nice stone built houses. The pump and floral enhancement on the Athy Road caught our attention.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and you have many good examples in Kilkea, especially in the church grounds. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. Also, it is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds and grass and also flower beds to ensure early establishment. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake. 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, a broken plant container outside the gates of Kilkea Castle would best be removed. We admired the pleasant planting scheme in the corner outside the school gates.

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.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramháola 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. You have mentioned the success of the local school in achieving the Green Flag which is associated with the annual clean up. Perhaps next time you could outline some more detail of the amount of work done or material collected and segregated for recycling. As further guidance, there are a number of other measures that your village can take in regard to sustainability. Contact your waste contractors and 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 the recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. 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. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Kilkea is a very pleasant area which in general is quite tidy. A pole beside the church has a clutter of signs, one of which was lying on the ground. The pole needs painting. Some weeds at the wall base opposite the unnamed estate take from the appearance at this point.

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

Individual houses and gardens looked well. We visited the unnamed residential estate which looks well; the tree stakes on the trees need to be removed now as they can cause damage to tree signs and a name sign would add enhancement.

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

Entrance from Castledermot is impressive with mature trees and upon arriving at the first junction with the church, gate lodges and castle entrance we were very impressed. The signs were clean.