

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill** Ref: **374**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **305**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **18/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>305</b>

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

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014. We have noted that your committee of nine people swell to larger numbers when volunteers assist your work on the ground. Meetings are held every two weeks throughout the year and there are strong links with residents, voluntary groups and support is forthcoming from local businesses and public bodies. Your means of communication include a website, school interaction and liaison with other organisations. The involvement with local schools is commendable and it is helpful that some teachers live in the village. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and a book of photographs. The map does not include the entire Kill area so perhaps you might improve on that for next year. We encourage communities to prepare a 3 year plan by identifying suitable projects under the eight criteria of the competition and then deciding on phasing of their implementation. We note from last year's adjudicator's report that you do have a plan up to 2015. If possible, perhaps you could include a summary of the projects of your plan with a comment on the stage of completion for next year's documentation.

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

Scoil Bhríde is a nice clean building displaying three Green Flags. There is extensive planting but some of it has failed. Dual use of the car park is a good idea. There is a good line of trees on the road and inside the school wall. We admired the boxwood feature "An Chill" and the various floral displays on the streets. St. Brigid's Church is well painted, the car park is clean and tidy and we admired the Grotto. There was a nice information point in the small park adjacent to the church, which also had interesting trees and hedging. A stone building adjacent to the church looked well and was adorned with window boxes and hanging baskets. The Sapling school could do with some brightening. For the most part, all the premises in the village are in good condition. St. John's (CoI) building looks well and the grounds are well planted. In the margin outside the stone boundary wall, we enjoyed the feature of seats, planting and information sign which was well done. We liked the choice of hornbeams for street tree planting and the containers are well planted. In particular, we wish to compliment you for placing floral displays between trees and not planting them at the base of trees, something which is not recommended. The Oaklands Centre and Eurospar looked well but there is a clutter of signs at the car park entrance which should be reduced. We admired the new paving and bollards opposite Eurospar. The pump was clean and the plants looked well. The Dew Drop Bar and Lounge looked well and people were enjoying a drink in the area enclosed with a low stone wall and railing. The GAA complex was clean and well painted and we admired planting at the entrance and inside.

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

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and we admired the line of trees on the approach from Castlewarden Roundabout. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity

as is the case here and in some residential estates. Also, it is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds and grass and even flower beds to ensure early establishment and in this regard, you are to be complimented for not planting flower beds beneath trees. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake as is the case with one tree in the Rochford estate. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible. We advise that you review your practice in that regard as we have observed some plant containers used unnecessarily. If considering more seasonal flowers the use of permanent planting including herbaceous perennials for floral displays is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. In our view, you have scope to plant more perennial plants. Hanging baskets at the church car park and plant containers at the church wall were of a good standard. The roundabout on the road beside the church car park was well landscaped and we admired the small timber bollards with an outline of the church spire. Opposite Eurospar we noted a street tree (Purple leaved plum - *Prunus cerasifera* *Pissardii* *Nigra*) that should be removed; most of it is dead.

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

We note your actions under this heading and commend you for measures such as planting native trees, encouraging wildlife corridors, wildflower meadows, bird boxes and bat boxes, as well as the tree survey. We noticed the bird and bat sanctuary signs. 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. 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 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. The "mens shed" project is a useful social activity as well as utilising material for recycling so we wish you luck with its continuation. Do you have information on the volumes of material collected and used through this venture and also through the waste metal collection project? We have noted the recycling projects at the school for science and art projects as well as benches and tables and the success with the Green Flag. The promotion of less photocopying in the school is also noted. There are a number of other measures that your community 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:**

Your success in reducing the amount of election posters and their swift removal after the election was great. The litter patrols are very effective as we observed very little litter in Kill. The cooperation of shop keepers and support from the youths is significant. The Recycling Centre was clean and tidy and set adjacent to a wildflower area and composting facility. A small amount of litter was noted in the park beside the church and outside Eurospar. Very little litter was in evidence in the GAA complex. Reduction of signs at the entrance to Oaklands centre would help to improve tidiness in the village. It was delightful to see a community looking so well and no weeds to be seen at kerbs.

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

Kill has a high standard of houses, gardens and open spaces in residential estates. Earl's Court estate has nice houses with some gardens planted. The open space was well maintained and we enjoyed the mix of tree species there. Trees at the entrance were very good; some that are leaning need to be replaced. We admired the Elderberry bushes in a hedge in Rochford estate where the gardens were well planted. There was a nice open space with no weeds at kerbs. When supporting stakes are no longer needed it is important to remove them before the ties cause damage. This is the case in this estate, in particular, one tree stem is almost fully girdled. River Lawn estate is fine. Glendara estate has a stone entrance sign which looks well and nice floral displays. Some gardens were well landscaped and the established trees make good impact. Hartwell Green had good planting around the sign. However, the sign needs cleaning. The walls were well painted. We admired the row of birch trees. There were strong planting schemes in front of and opposite Hartwell estate. Plant containers are unnecessary here because you already have established beds (see our comments under landscaping above). In Newtown Manor, a dead tree should be removed and the tree stakes and ties need checking to prevent the tree stem from being damaged. St. Patrick's Park and the Gables have well-kept houses. Some gardens are well planted and we suggest hedges for others. There were nice Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) trees opposite the entrance

and the grass area and planting were well maintained. In Saddler's Hall there is scope for improved maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Gaelic View is a clean estate but the "rusty" sculpture is not explained. There is a dead tree here; we saw a nice seat near the entrance. Embassy Manor had well established trees and a lot of planting; the grass was well maintained.

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

The Castlewarden themed roundabout at the N7 was appropriately landscaped with an equestrian theme. The "Welcome to Kill" signs were very good. Finger post signs need cleaning. The new road surface and paths in the centre of the village and the improved disabled access was noted.