

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmeade** Ref: **375**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **286**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	52
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33
TOTAL MARK	450	286

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and we are pleased that you feel that the increase in marks over the past 23 years is recognition of how your community has improved over that period. We have noted that your committee of eight people now has one male and you hold monthly meetings throughout the year as well as other times when you are working on projects. You have good support from Kildare County Council and have community employment workers which must be a big help. Your means of communication include church newsletters and the Leinster leader. The involvement with local schools comprises visiting the Green Flag committee on a regular basis. Many thanks for attaching maps of the area with project locations marked for our attention. We found these maps a little difficult to follow, particularly the overall map which lacks sufficient detail. We suggest you prepare a better map for next year. We note your views that participation in the competition may assist an increase in employment opportunities.

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

The white painted church looked very well and there were roses blooming in the church grounds and the planting opposite. The car park looked well as did the grotto. The school had hanging baskets, a Green Flag and the building was well maintained. Individual houses in the village were well maintained and well landscaped. We admired the old pump adorned with geraniums at the corner beside the name stone against a stone wall backing. The Moate of Ardscurr is a major feature of historical interest and recreational value for Kilmead. We admired the trees, seats, grass, Gordon Bennett plaque and well done on making such an important contribution to its maintenance. We suggest that it be better signposted.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and you have some good examples opposite the church, at the Moate of Ardscurr and in some residential estates. There is scope for more tree planting in your community and we note the additional planting at the Moate as well as spring bulbs at the Failte sign. 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. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible such as in front of the old village pump. The use of permanent planting is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. We note that you arrange for the grass cutting in residential estates.

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

We note you are awaiting on information boards and that you have an appreciation of the wildlife value of the Moate of Ardscoil. 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 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. We noted the battery and mobile phone recycling facility in the local school. Do you have any information on how well it is used? We are pleased to learn that teachers encourage children to use lunch boxes to reduce the use of foil and that they are vigilant regarding having lights switched off when not needed. Well done to pupils and teachers on achieving the third Green Flag. We have also noted the use of mulch mowers for grass cutting and the plan to reduce the use of chemical weed killers. Can you find out the volumes of material recycled through the bottle bank and clothes recycling facility at St. Laurence's? There are a number of other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting. 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 some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative to using weed killers. 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:

The daily litter pick in the village and the weekly litter pick over a larger area is effective as we were pleased to see very little litter in Kilmead. Material collected in the spring clean-up was segregated and taken away by Kildare County Council. Vigilance is forever needed to maintain tidiness and litter control, especially when you have a problem of people dumping bags. Graffiti was noted on a pole outside New Line Grove estate and kerbside weeds in some residential areas.

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

St. Ita's Park is a well-kept estate and we admired the hanging baskets on some houses. Cluain Ard has nice bungalows; there is scope for more trees on the open space and the screen wall could be softened by using climbing plants such as ivy at the wall base. There were a few weeds at the road kerbs. New Line Grove is a nice estate with great trees and planting at the entrance. Moatview had a big open space with some trees and room for more. Some gardens were very well maintained.

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

Under this heading you have referred to maintenance of hedges in the village and regular mowing of grass margins. We were pleased to see that this work is well done. Approach road signage was noted and admired.