

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moone** Ref: **381**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **272**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>272</b>

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

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and congratulations on being a participant for more than 15 years. We have noted that your committee of 5 people hold a leadership role and are supported by a further 5 volunteers on occasions. Meetings held average 12 per year with an AGM and weekly meeting with workers and volunteers on a weekly basis from April to September. There is strong local support for your activities with Kildare County Council, TUS workers and local businesses. Means of communication include newsletters and newspapers as well as notice boards, emails and texts. The involvement with the school principal and the Green Flag committee is commendable. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and information on the waste survey report.

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. In this regard we note your summary of the plan which was attached to your application. For future submissions, please consider placing the various projects under the eight criteria and indicating their stage of completion for each year.

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

Moone village looks well and well done on the re-development projects. The church and its grounds looked very well. We enjoyed the flowers. A redundant pole nearby should be removed. The cemetery is well maintained. We noted the old water pump painted red and highlighted with a railing surround. The red seat nearby and the planted strip all added to the entrance. Congratulations to teachers and pupils on the Green Flag. Some weeds growing outside the school look untidy. We admired the playground.

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

The double line of lime trees on both sides of the entrance to Shackleton Village residential estate is one of the most impressive that I have ever seen, especially in a rural village. The grass and trees are well maintained. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity and that is what you have done here. There is scope for further street tree planting in the village even though you benefit from trees in private property/adjacent fields. We admired the trees in private gardens, in particular "The Turkey Roost Tree" (*Larix decidua*) a noted specimen of European Larch which is featured in the "Heritage Trees of Ireland" a recent publication by the Tree Council of Ireland. Perhaps you would consider highlighting this tree (with a sign) for visitors to enjoy. We admired the stone wall boundary in front of the garden here 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. We advise that the stakes on trees opposite school be checked for this reason. 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. We admired the planting at the church; it was neat and tidy. Grassed areas were well maintained

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

We have noted the planting of new trees within the designated wildlife area. You also 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 note the inclusion of the results of your waste survey which was a recommendation in last year's report and commend you for this action. With a 45% response you did very well and the survey indicates a high level of understanding of the need for sustainability. The results will be a pointer for future activities under this heading. Congratulations to pupils and teachers in the awarding of a second Green Flag to the local school. We also note that 200 bags of clothing were collected for re-use and recycling. There are a number of other measures that your town 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:**

Moone is a very tidy village; we were pleased to see such a high standard of litter control. This is due no doubt to your vigilance of the weekly litter picks and regular litter patrols. You are fortunate to have Tus workers to assist your various efforts. Some weeds at the base of new trees should be removed to ensure their establishment by reducing the competition for moisture and nutrients. We suggest some supplemental feeding of the trees to assist their establishment. Some untidiness was noted adjacent to Moone Village Terrace

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

The grass was well maintained at both estates in the village and we have already commented on the fine stand of trees at the entrance to Shackleton Village. There is scope for additional tree planting within the estate on the margins and in private gardens. Moone Village Terrace is a well-kept estate. Cashen's was in very good condition. We admired the small garden outside the grey/light blue building complex.

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

The entrance to Moone village is very pleasing and we noted the clean signage adjacent to the old stone wall and the grass margin well maintained. Dogwood hedge at entrance from road was admired.