

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilfinane** Ref: **277**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **263**
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	42
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
TOTAL MARK	450	263

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

You adjudicator really enjoyed visiting Kilfinane. Everyone was beavering away – painting, power-washing, mowing or strimming on adjudication day. In fact, numerous people were observed taking up the June challenge you have advertised in the Kickstart poster through the town. Even one pensioner was out brushing her street and washing the walls of her home with a flannel. Your adjudicators would like to highly commend all of the volunteers throughout Kilfinane for their obvious hard work and dedication.

Great to see the Tourist Information Office open. Perhaps the empty premises next door to here could have a window display placed to raise the image of this area? You have great support from Ballyhoura Development and it is hoped that the 2014 European Marathon Championship was successful.

Thank you for the photographs provided and for the copy of your long-term plan. It was difficult to see on this what actions had actually been achieved, as opposed to planned. It is suggested that each action is marked somehow to highlight this.

Best of luck to this new committee as it is always great to have some fresh ideas on board. Your adjudicator would like to thank all the members of the TidyTowns committee that have helped Kilfinane since the start of the competition! You have a community of which you can be proud.

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

There are wonderful two and three storey buildings along Main Street of Kilfinane - indeed there are 44 protected structures with Kilfinane. The Local Area Plan for Kilfinane has a wonderful map included from 1839 and the large number of buildings in the community existing from this time demonstrates the wealth of heritage in Kilfinane community.

The paint efforts at Healy's were admired and particular thanks to the volunteer who repaired and replaced the facing tiles. This looked very well. The gutters were leaking here at the time of adjudication and the repair of these could complete this worthy work.

There are so many very attractive buildings such as O'Céilleachair, with its heritage-coloured paint scheme and very well managed wooden sash windows which were in-keeping with the style of buildings on the main street. Its window display of tortoises was fun too! Another was O'Seachnasaigh, though here you could maybe remove some of the stickers from the windows which have now faded somewhat. Crowley's also looked very well, though the older shop windows needs some restoration work on the wooden frame – your architectural conservation officer at

Limerick County Council would be able to give you some advice and direct you any possible funding available in this regard. There are wonderful chimneys on now closed Gala – perhaps the commercial signs from this property could be removed? McCarthy's hardware is another wonderful building that would be a shame to see deteriorate. The corner pharmacy is a cute building. Empty premises at end of High street had very nice paint job.

The fountain and pedestrian area of the lower part of the Main Street looked very well. The development of the buildings that house the Library looked well but it would have been better developed with the use of wooden sash windows here.

The Church of Ireland proposals seem to have stalled – it is hoped that you will be able to progress this. The sewer vent pipes need some attention through the village such as the one at the gates to the Church of Ireland.

McGrath's premises were being power-washed at time of adjudication so thanks to the owners for this. The Health Centre should be power-washed and if possible so should the canopy of the garage opposite. The Surgery next to Centra was presented well.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The pedestrianized area of Main Street is a good amenity and the modern cobbles blend well with the period buildings in the vicinity. The Stalk Walker statue is very striking and fitting here. But behind it, the religious statue is of poor quality and has had a poor paint job. The planting here will provide year-round structure and form. Your adjudicator admired the bike track at the fountain area – though it took a while to work out what it was! There is a very nice alignment of the Enterprise centre with the pedestrian area.

The cycle route display is double-sided but unfortunately its position facing the road means you cannot read the back of the poster – perhaps it could be turned 90° so both sides can be read if necessary?

There were some lovely ferns on the old stone walls by the Church of Ireland as well as at the new fernery. There are a number of dead trees on Main Street that need to be removed. You have put a lot of work into specific areas of landscaping and this should be applauded. There is a useful booklet available to download free from the website www.heritagecouncil.ie entitled 'Conserving Wildlife in Towns and Villages'.

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

You organised a great first step in working with an ecologist to work with the TY students, and the group, to consider the value of the different habitats through Kilfinane. Your adjudicator for 2015 will look forward to seeing poster to be erected with the help of the LA21 funding on your wildlife. The actions taken on board as a result of doing the bee workshop are to be commended and it is hoped that these actions will improve the local population of wild bees.

The fernery that the TY students worked upon on the Well Road is to be highly commended and the works on the biodiversity roundabout were noted- a great spot to attract butterflies. Japanese Knotweed was growing extensively at the site of the Old Mill – probably derived from top soil being dumped in the area. Details on its management can be found at www.invasivespeciesireland.com

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

There were 3.5 pages of your 12 page entry form detailing the actions you have carried out in this category of the competition. This is truly impressive. But what your adjudicator liked in particular was that actions were not just from the schools alone, there were actions noted from Centra, The Hostel, The TT Committee, and the coal merchant, the restaurant, hair dresser and even the different local sports clubs! Small actions all mount up to big changes. So simply by purchasing the bark mulch in large bags, you have saved quite a number of plastic bags being binned to landfill. The restoration of the public seats at the graveyard help you gain marks in this area of the competition. Your adjudicator particularly liked the free library at the playground.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to Cllr Moloney for his support of the art competition 'Kilfinane, a place to be proud to live in'.

There was some graffiti on the Enterprise Centre Entrance Sign. This general area has a lot of potential with the wonderful stone sheds here. With a little effort at this end of the town, a lot could be achieved here. Some of the concrete paving at car park by Church was cracked. Bottle banks and recycling centre nicely presented.

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

Well done on your work on derelict houses. It is hoped that by now the County Council will have some updates for you on the specific areas of concern. It was also good to note that the residents of Tread Na Ri have formed a new committee.

Vale View estate looked very well and workers were beavering away during the time of adjudication. The raised beds looked well here but it is suggested that the planters are not appropriate here as the plants could be placed in the ground.

The wall defences at Ballyhoura heights are not attractive. Could some climbing plants, eg honeysuckle, be trained

to grow in front of the stones to reduce the impact of the stones?

Forest View was very well kept with mature trees and a lovely south-facing bed of flowers at the end of the estate road. They have also nicely used similar plants under the chain-mail fence at the entrance to this estate to make the fence more attractive.

Radarc Cillen has some very unusual sculptures. There are some wonderful detached period residential homes on the roads into Kilfillance such as the detached home beside the Health Centre.

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

It was nice to see and read of your approach to allow the natural wildlife in Kilfinane to flourish. There were potholes on Old Mill Road and at Vale View. Yellow and Black warning signs in a few places through Kilfinane were rusty and did not look great. .

The older sheds on the road to the Chapel and graveyards were very nicely presented. Marian's corner was also very nice. The older graveyard was a nice oasis. It was wondered if the residents at the insect hotel were ever viewed by local school children?

On Barrack Street the sheds with the curved roof was nicely presented. Maybe compost at the playing fields here?