

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill** Ref: **374**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **310**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **02/07/2015**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	45
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>310</b>

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

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a most concise and clear entry. You took the advice of last year's adjudicator and the map you supplied was perfect for use; thank you. Upon this, you marked the key locations as well as the names housing estates (very helpful!) and locations of project work where necessary. A suggestion would be to perhaps use different coloured pens or markers to make some of the entries and features stand out. Thank you for photographs and the outline plan but it is recommended that you try to devise a more detailed and comprehensive plan for next year. It needn't be too elaborate but should be sufficient to guide your work from year to year over a chosen period.

The adjudicator is struck by how small a committee you have in Kill. It is recommended that you expand this if at all possible. Perhaps you could look for specific volunteers for selected tasks? None of this is a reflection on your performance - you are doing so well - but it is in the interests of maintaining the great work you have carried out so far. You communicate via traditional and social media - of the latter: which ones? If Kildare County Council support your work (as I'm sure they do) you should give due credit. Its great that you work with schools as well as Men's Shed and Scout groups.

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

You've undertaken several projects this year which you list succinctly. You do list some items such as establishment of flower beds which are better placed in the Landscaping & Open Spaces category and new bird boxes that would be relevant to Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities.

St Brigid's Church was strikingly well-painted and looked very strong in the sunlight. It was noted that one of the blue lampposts is in need of painting. The community centre was beautifully decorated. The old St Brigid's national school's grounds are very sparse and could be readily enhanced with some tree-planting. Some murals here would also have immediate effect. The Old House looks great with its floral decorations. The gates of the Church of Ireland are in need of painting. Behan's Eurospar is neat and tidy but would be so much better without the garish red and yellow window stickers. There is a great effort at landscaping at the side entrance here. The Dew Drop Inn is a beautiful premises. Kill Pharmacy also looked very well. The shops at Claradh Court all looked neat. The Sunny Launderette is missing an N. The old Garda Station is very, very well kept and is possibly the best that this adjudicator has seen. Molly's Barber Shop is very pleasant but the sign here could do with a little cleaning. Scoil Bhríde - the new national school - looks gorgeous with its bright sculpture.

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

Again, your entry is very clear and concise. There were so many fine examples of your work on show on day of visit that the adjudicator would be hard put to describe them all. The park is gorgeous in its simplicity and so well kept. There is coordination of colours and good use of low-key evergreen planting. The yellow and black benches look great. The planting scheme in front of the grotto was admired with the green plants to the fore and the colour behind. The tripod dish planters were planted consistently throughout the village and really have a strong effect. The semi-circular stone-edged bedding areas are also a really strong dash of colour. New tree-planting was noted opposite the Inn, as was some new landscape planting which included lavender. The rectangular granite planters are very nice but planting in the ground would be preferable where possible.

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

You've given a little detail on projects on birdboxes, on the riverbank and wildflower seeds. A little more detail would have been appreciated. Just one note of caution: works on riverbank areas should always be carried out following good advice from experts. The woodland walk is a lovely little path and rather a surprise to stumble upon. The mini-wood is fantastic. The large mature beech trees in the Church of Ireland grounds are a significant habitat, including a rookery here. The river walk is beautiful too - a little gem away from the traffic. Don't be too diligent in removing riverside plants or shrubs. The sign for the wildflower area was noted but the area itself wasn't found. The information on the sign in the park will need to be updated this year as it is now faded.

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

Well done on listing the projects applicable to this category. These include rainwater collectors and private water-butts in order to save water, use of recycled wood by planters made by the Men's Shed and the WOW days at school. The correct timing of tasks in order to reduce labour is an excellent observation and approach.

#### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Thank you for the details of your actions in this category. The bottle bank was spotless on day of visit although obviously very much in use. The Bus Éireann bus-stops are faded and in need of painting. The new 'real-time' bus-stops contrast sharply with the old. The black and yellow bollards look great. Watch out for algae building up on road signs. It is not recommended to attach any signs to trees with screws as this will damage the tree. Galvanised nails may be used. However, it is best not to use trees for signage (such as your anti dog litter signs) at all. The sign pole for Woodbine House is in need of painting.

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

Again, a word of caution as you have mentioned cutting/pruning trees 'not suitable' for a riverbank. Just be sure that you aren't removing too much shade or damaging the riverbank while doing so. This is a strong category for you and there are many fine examples of diligent care and attention. The bungalow opposite the Old House has probably the most gorgeous garden in the village but there are contenders. There are stunning gardens in front of the row of cottages opposite Kill Pharmacy. There is great use of colours in the beds in front of The Gables with a splash of red from the Geraniums in front of the evergreen shrubs. This is simple but most effective.

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

Well done on the many activities you listed here. Indeed, a visit to Kill from any direction shows the effort that you put into the maintenance and appearance of your approach roads. The roundabouts and bollards looked neat and sharp on day of visit. It was noted that old lampposts are to be replaced.

The equestrian-themed roundabout on the northern approach was so impressive. Well done to the designer. The church car-park, entrances and turning area here are all so well kept. The pump near the bus-stop was resplendent. Weed control was extremely good through your long village street but without evidence of overuse of herbicides. Footpaths and kerbing stones were in good condition. The information signs were clean and relevant. Is one bicycle rack at the shop enough? The long approach from Johnstown is really pleasant and creates a great first impression.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

A really enjoyable visit to Kill showed your work off so well. This was a really impressive visit and your efforts are much appreciated. Well done.