

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmuckridge** Ref: **890**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **277**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
TOTAL MARK	450	277

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome back to the Competition – but do not attempt to relate your mark with what you earned in 2013 because the system has changed, with Community now taking a more prominent place and Sustainable Waste and Resource Management becoming more important. Do not be disappointed with your mark in the latter – the average for the county is 9. It is many years since this adjudicator was in Kilmuckridge – it now seems to have the air of a bustling small town rather than a village. Your submission is comprehensive; it is somewhat bulky, however – for example, we do not need copies of letters, invitations, newspaper cuttings etc. and it is worth mentioning that towns at the very top of the competition manage with considerably less paper. The map is exactly what we require. The 3 Year Plan is somewhat rudimentary but it does provide a focus for activities. Your involvement with such a number of official and voluntary bodies is enviable.

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

St Mary's Church is of an unusually attractive design; it and its ancillary buildings are very well presented. St Joseph's School in its well kept grounds also impressed. The traditional buildings of Boggan's pub in stone and brick creates a very handsome corner. Buildings that have a real sense of sophistication are Coláiste an Atha, which this adjudicator had not seen before, the KM Hall and Sean Og's Hotel. The group of shops that includes Londi's and Orchard Harbour are partly responsible for the attractively busy feeling in the town referred to above; they are very nicely placed behind the enclosed car park. Maisie's makes its mark in a bright and amusing way, a clever idea. There is a sense of spaciousness here in what may be regarded as the village centre.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Small areas of planting and paving here and there create a feeling of easy charm; this includes the curving boundary of the central car park already referred to. Planting at the pump is a good example. The little seating area across the road from Hammel's is another and yet another is the formal planting before the KM Hall. Perhaps the boat is a little too high above the wall to make a real impact. Planting in containers adds to the picture. It is good to see much emphasis now on perennials and shrubs. The Grotto is actually enhanced by the festoons of ivy – this should not be cleared without a lot of thought; if this is the 'Rose Garden' the purple roses make a tremendous show – a variety not known to this adjudicator. The triangular bed on the Blackwater road with the low repaired wall will come into its own in another year. It is very good to see from your photographs that you plant bulbs for spring showing. Much planting of young trees is applauded, particularly noticeable at Silverdale. Thank you for drawing attention to the prunus at 'Kitsey's Bed'.

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

It was not quite clear what was meant by the Bio-diversity area at Greenwood Avenue but the photographs show a small stream in the undergrowth and this would certainly seem to be an appropriate location. The insect hotel was noted and seems to have some residents. In your next submission you should state what is invisible to the adjudicator – for example, if the bat boxes are in use and if it is possible to say what species. Are the pupils of the National School involved in any Wild Life projects? for example creating a list of birds seen; BirdwatchIreland is very strong in the county and their people would certainly give advice.

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

Your submission is does well under this heading. It is good to read that you are in contact with the schools and wonderful to learn that there are five green flags! Almost everywhere the impetus in regard to such matters as rainwater saving, composting, recycling of clothes, recycling of timber, comes into the homes via the children who are involved in such projects at school. It is noted that you are promoting the concept of 'Green Dog Walkers'. The notice for the Kilmuckridge Metal Recycling Project was seen with interest. Do provide information on how these projects are working out in your next submission – this is also an area that is partly invisible to adjudicators and you may be in line for additional marks. The recycling collection centre is conveniently sited and indeed a number of people were unloading materials from their car boots at the time of the visit. Your mark may seem low under the new system but it is only one point below the county average.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is of a high standard. Disposable litter was seen in only three places, on the curve leading up to Chestnut Grove, in the Greenwood car park and on the corner of the Chapelwood road, and only in very small quantities. Your involvement in the North Wexford 2K clean, where you obtained a Gold Standard Award according to the caption under the picture, is deserving of the highest praise; the same may be said of the pictures of school children taking part in the national spring clean. Congratulation to those members who engage in daily clean-ups: is there any way of discovering who drops the litter and of stopping the menace at source? surely it would be preferable for these dedicated people to make use of their time and talents in a more creative way. It is salutary to read that you also engage in beach clean-ups as far away as Morriscastle. In regard to general tidiness, where roadside verges are trimmed the grass cuttings should be removed at the same time (and used for composting, indeed) and not left lying. Advertising signage is not a major problem here through the advertising at the Takeaway seems unnecessarily prominent. Some kerbside weed was seen in almost all housing areas – something that each resident could control in a few minutes every month outside their own front doors.

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

There are very few 'traditional' houses in the village centre; those that there are are kept with pride. A beautifully reconditioned 3-bay house was seen on the Morriscastle road. "John's House" is an extraordinary bower of blossoms. The very extensive housing area opposite the national school has wonderful views and is well maintained; more planting would be an advantage; a very few premises were in need of frontage improvements. Chapel Wood is a nicely laid out estate where young trees are neglected and there is a weedy car park; a strong Residents' Association would speedily see to this; the homes that are occupied are well presented. Good to see several small developments off the main streets, such as the charming Uplands – in too many towns such developments are often sited inconveniently far from the centre. Chestnut Walk is exceptionally trim; only three chestnut trees were seen; they are in good condition but two oaks need urgent remedial attention and then they will survive another 100 years. The neat Silverdale has been mentioned above in relation to its extensive tree-planting. The holiday homes by the hotel were immaculate.

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

Stone walls, whether new or old – such as the splendid famine wall – are a first-class feature of Kilmuckridge. Public signage is clean and neat. Car parks are particularly well looked after – such as at the church and cemetery, at St Joseph's Football Club, at Londis and opposite the hotel. Street lighting standards are elegant. It was good to see traffic calming measures.

Concluding Remarks:

Kilmuckridge impressed because of the confidence apparent in its entry, to overall excellent effect.