

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildysart** Ref: **71**
County: **Clare** Mark: **290**
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44	45
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	23	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	288	290

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Kildysart is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form. The additional information was a little cumbersome and could probably be left out for next year. Photos are very welcome but should relate to specific projects and be clearly labelled. As the adjudicator will carry the map around the town please try to include the key to the numbering system on the same sheet. You continue to enjoy a high level of support from within the community with good connections to all support agencies. The three-year plan summary was a little sketchy and we were unsure whether a more developed plan was in existence. If so this should be included in full for next year.

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

You have completed a number of most worthwhile projects under this heading. The new bilingual street signs look really well. Congratulations on the enhancement of the GAA grounds. We looked for the Lachnashannagh cross on your map but could not locate it, it was good to read about the works done here. St John Bosco school is a fine building if lacking a bit of colour at the entrance. The square retains its attractive traditional streetscape. Centra should be encouraged not to black out its windows, as it has done on one side, as this degrades the streetscape. Flower displays around the bust of Pheadar Mac Flannchada work well in drawing attention to this area. Many homes and businesses were admired throughout the town and well done to those who made an effort to put out colourful displays of flowers. The Corner Bar is especially eye-catching in this regard.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The grotto was admired and was looking really well on adjudication day. The harbour area was clean on adjudication day. The anchor is mostly submerged in gravel while the large containers with tiny flowers have little impact. Try to look for solutions here with perennial plants, planted directly in the ground. The picnic area is attractive and well kept. The cemetery is in a tranquil location and is very well maintained. It is of significant heritage value and it would be nice to have some information here for the visitor in this regard. The playground is a fine facility which was tidy and ordered on adjudication day. Large planting areas with timber surrounds are high maintenance in terms of weed control. The planting is a mishmash of styles and species and it would be worth going back to the drawing board in deciding what effect you are hoping for here. Avoid using slug pellets in flowerpots as the use of these chemicals is harmful to the environment. Street trees, including some newly planted, are most welcome in softening straight lines in these areas. Make sure that support a removed are no longer needed. Hedge cutting was underway during adjudication and this is prohibited under the wildlife act as there was no apparent health and safety reason for the work.

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

The purpose of this category is to encourage communities to engage with the wonderful nature that is all around us. As such the adjudicator is looking for projects that help to raise awareness and appreciation of this asset. Kildysart is adjacent to a special area of conservation and so is among the most important areas for wildlife in Europe. Has any research being done on the reasons why it is of such value? How can you engage locals to cherish and protect it? It's good that you have attended workshops in this area, what did you take from this?

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

Well done to the schools for their involvement in the green flag initiative. This is most important in progressing in this category. Always be thinking of how materials can avoid becoming waste to start with. E.g. could unwanted paint be used in murals or to refresh a wall or building? This is an area of continuous improvement so the adjudicator is always looking for new ideas or innovations. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done for your participation in the national spring clean. It's great that you have a Solas worker to do litter patrols, are there patrols by your group? The town is very tidy and no issues of note were recorded. Litter control on adjudication day was excellent, well done.

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

Many attractive homes were admired on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. Houses at one estate on the Kilrush road had a lovely finish. It lacked a name however despite having a large stone at the entrance.

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

On approach from Ennis the use of herbicide was noticed in more than one area. This issue was also raised in 2015. What measures are being taken by your group to eliminate this harmful practice? Road surfacing along the R473 is in good order. Traffic speed is too high however, it was shocking to see that at the school there is no pedestrian crossing and not even road markings to urge vehicles to slow down. This should be addressed with urgency. On the harbour road avoid putting containers of flowers on grass. As a rule containers are only used for soil is not available while in this location flowers only take away from the appearance of the quiet country lanes.

Concluding Remarks:

Kildysart is a charming country town which benefits from a high standard of presentation. Points were unfortunately deducted this year under the landscaping category due to out of season hedge cutting and herbicide use – no doubt issues which can be addressed for next year. Best of luck