

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkishen**

Ref: **999**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **231**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **13/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	28	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	23	24
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	41	43
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	19	23
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26	27
TOTAL MARK	450	208	231

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Kilkishen is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form with additional information. There was a great sense of energy emanating from your application form and the reader can sense the enthusiasm with which you are approaching the contest. With 10 on your committee and a spring in your step you are well placed to progress in the contest. There was quite a bit of duplication in your form so it is suggested that you review the very helpful Tidy Towns Handbook and ensure you are familiar with the requirements of each category. You will then be best placed to decide where to describe each of your projects. This is important as the adjudicator wants to give you the maximum number of marks possible. Your contacts and positive relations with Clare County Council are essential in progressing many of your aims but you have cast the net wide, with liaison with many other agencies and this is most welcome. Your contacts with local schools are an essential element of this, it's great that you are involved in each other's projects. You are also collaborating with Tidy Towns groups in your vicinity and this is welcome. Facebook provides a great opportunity for you to network with similar groups across Ireland and beyond. Your map is very important as the adjudicator, who may not have been to your village before, needs it to navigate and find project locations. Try to improve on your graphics, scale etc as your map (which was a photograph of an original) was rather hard to read.

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

Your efforts to address the Forge and the Blacksmith's house are noted. You are commended for applying to have them on the county register, do persevere with this process. Incidentally the buildings themselves are, outwardly at least, in good condition. Your attention to other disused buildings is also noted. The painting of the church and its boundary walls should be placed under this heading. Businesses along the Main Street are looking well and Donnellon's Bar particularly caught the eye. Signage around Mace is looking a bit grimy but nothing a good scrub wouldn't sort out. The church is looking very well with that fresh coat of paint. It is a lovely central focal point for the village. The cultural centre is a wonderfully restored building which was unfortunately closed at the time of adjudication. The new use superbly maintained the ambience and character of the old church. The school playground are very well presented.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You are wished every success with the development of your 1916 garden and we look forward to visiting it in due course. The rural setting of Kilkishen provides the dominant landscaping feature and your work should seek to enhance this wherever possible. This means the appropriate maintenance of hedges and stone walls, the preservation of mature trees and, when planting, to be considered in your choice of species. The bog wood tree is an impressive installation. An adjacent panel is covered in polystyrene, this should be used or removed. The Sléan

sculpture is very eye-catching and appropriate in its location. More text here to accompany the images would provide the visitor with more information on this aspect of your heritage. Planting in containers was admired at the old pump. Flowers across from Donnellon's has little effect against the open car parking space. Extensive use of weedkiller here has left dead vegetation and a scorched appearance. Do try to avoid the use of herbicides throughout as it is bad for the environment and human health.

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

This is clearly your star performing area and you are evidently (and rightly) proud of the progress made on your bog walk. There has been a dramatic shift in how our boglands are viewed in recent decades and conservation has not been viewed universally as positive. It is heartening therefore that your work is bringing a new sense of value and ownership to these precious places, and providing something that can be handed on to future generations. Your sléan monument acknowledges the past - and this too is part of our heritage. Kilkishen is showing how the past and the future can be reconciled to the benefit of local people. Well done. You are wished every success in the opening of your new walk while the eradication of invasive knotweed is another important step. The NPWS bat walk was very well attended showing that there is great interest in our natural heritage when the opportunities to learn are presented. The wonderful bog walk was explored and immensely enjoyed. The panels were noted which are awaiting appropriate displays.

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

The circular economy is where it's at! You are successfully taking global concepts and transferring them to your local area. This was at the heart of the Rio Earth Summit in the early 1990s. By incorporating this understanding into your activities you make waste avoidance a part of your culture. The examples you give show how this is being put into action while the key thing is to be always on the lookout for new opportunities. Use your communication channels to the best possible effect here as one person's waste is another's resource. Your talk with the IPCC clearly sparked interest in the community, you will need to think about how you can build on this momentum, delivering fresh ideas and actually changing behaviour on the ground. Your schools are involved in the green flag project and this is an essential element of this category. Your connections in this regard will ensure that you can learn from each other. The information on peatlands and sustainable pesticide use was noted in the shop window. It is a good idea to keep this moving. 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:

The scourge of fly tipping is a national problem and you are commended for taking a hard line. It is encouraging that you are working along with the EPA and Clare County Council on this issue as it is important that perpetrators are pursued. It is welcome also that your local representatives are taking it seriously. Litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard, well done.

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

Your attention to detail regarding the naming of estates is admirable. Cluain na Laoi is a fine estate of homes with neat green areas. It benefits greatly from an attractive stone wall surround but additional trees would soften some of the edges. The derelict site across the road from here is clearly a problem, are there plans to get rid of these ugly railings? Nap's Court is beautifully presented. Teeronea benefits from a lovely line of native trees. Hillcrest Grove is yet another wonderfully presented estate although dead trees at the entrance should be replaced. The new heritage signage has brought a great addition to the town.

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

Best of luck with your heritage project at the entrance to Kilkishen House. Road surfacing is good with clear markings which is welcome. As noted previously the appropriate maintenance of hedges and stone walls is an essential component of your heritage and landscape. A cost-effective way of enhancing roadsides is painting field gates, but first choose a single colour for consistency. On approach from Tulla the name sign is a bit battered and unappealing. Beautiful old farm gates were admired across from Hamilton Park. It would be great to see these restored. The welcome sign and seating area on approach from Kilmurry is a very attractive welcome to the town.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a real pleasure to visit Kilkishen and see the changes you are making in realising a sustainable future. We look forward to returning in 2017 so do keep up the good work!