

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmihil**

Ref: **75**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **276**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **08/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
TOTAL MARK	450	271	276

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Kilmihil is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form and map. Do ensure that all relevant information regarding your projects is contained within the application form (as opposed to separate sheets). This is to avoid any confusion. Planned activities meanwhile should be compiled into a three-year plan which is laid out with each of the contest headings. Take a look at the Tidy Towns handbook which contains more useful information on how to go about this. You have an established pedigree in the contest now and enjoy wide public support. It is great to read how your involvement has enhanced the village. Your map is clear but do use it to highlight the locations of projects which have been undertaken for this year as well as the main landmarks. Many centres use a numbering system for this.

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

Well done for the various building repairs and for painting the community centre. Topaz/Costcutter is very tidy while roses planted in its boundary wall add a nice splash of colour. St Michaels Well and Shrine is a unique feature of Kilmihil's heritage and is immaculately maintained. Restoration works appear to be underway on the vaults and do provide an update on this project for 2017. Interpretive information was read with interest. The community college was looking very well on adjudication day with its new coat of paint and abundant greenery. The church is fresh and inviting with clean flags and colourful planting surrounds. The paintwork behind the crucifix needs to be touched up. At the library a beautiful civic space is created by the combination of flags, flowers and clean cobbling. Well done on the presentation of this important space. Murals at the GAA grounds greatly liven up what could be a dull grey wall. The nearby school impressed with its bank of green flags – six in all! What a wonderful achievement. D. Breen's impressed with its traditional simplicity. Generally along Main Street, presentation was excellent with clean facades and the retention of the streetscape.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your lakeside amenity area was visited and the new Swan installation with roses surrounds is most attractive. Landscaping in this natural setting should be restrained and focus on native and natural vegetation rather than suburban garden style planting. Such an approach would result in lower maintenance costs and greater benefit for your local wildlife. The area is very clean and its wheelchair accessibility was admired. An empty metal panel near the Swans should be removed if not in use. Certainly the use of herbicides needs to be avoided here (and elsewhere) as it is very harmful to the environment and leaves unsightly yellow margins. Through the village large containers of flowers work well in adding eye-catching colour. Planting on the traffic islands on the Cahermurphy Road looks very well.

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

Well done to the school on the new biodiversity green flag. This is a great achievement. The adjudicator would have liked more information on this and what was involved. In this category the adjudicator is looking at how you raise awareness of your local nature among local people. If the school has already started on some initiatives you should find ways in which the wider community can get involved. Last year's report mentioned the issue of Japanese knotweed in the village and that it was being addressed. An update on this important alien invasive species would be welcome.

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

As pointed out in last year's report this category is not concerned with the spring clean and this should be discussed in the tidiness and litter control section. Recycling is considered standard practice meanwhile and the focus now needs to shift to avoiding the generation of waste to begin with. The use of water butts for harvesting rain is an excellent example of a project under this heading. Are there plans to roll this out to other homes and businesses in the village? Your school's green flag achievements are also important so well done to them. The Tidy Towns group can learn from their activities as many of the projects are also applicable in people's homes. Your poly-tunnel (mentioned elsewhere) is also saving resources by generating your own supply. 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:

You clearly have an energetic programme of cleaning and litter collection. This is essential in order to maintain the high standards expected in the contest. Your annual spring clean is also commended. You may consider providing the adjudicator with a photograph to show what was achieved here. The clothes bank was stuffed to capacity on adjudication day while an adjacent yard was quite messy, with all manner of discarded debris. Quite a bit of litter had gathered around the entrance to St Patrick's sports fields, while stockpiles of sand and gravel contributed to the untidy impression. A tatty flag at the Fiddle Head should be removed. Similarly as Declan's Bar the tricolour is quite frayed and this creates a bad impression. At the junction of Main Street and Church Street the appearance would be enhanced if the wall was painted, the sign straightened and the wooden extension to the pole removed. Litter control was very good on adjudication day.

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

Kilmihil benefits from a number of very attractive housing areas. The Meadows was admired for its well-kept and spacious green areas. This is a beautiful tranquil area with inviting seating. Many one-off houses were admired and the retention of low stone walls is most welcome. These are always preferable to wooden post fencing in keeping with the character of the landscape.

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

Welcome signs were noted at entrances to the town but these were quite plain. A nice project for the longer term would be to install bilingual stone signs which would create a more welcoming feel. On the Creegh approach roses and rowan trees create a fantastic impression. You should try to replicate this effect elsewhere.

Concluding Remarks:

Kilmihil has many built and natural attractions and it was a pleasure to spend some time admiring its riches. Do keep up the good work and we look forward to returning 2017.