

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmurry**

Ref: **76**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **221**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **14/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	30	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	24	28
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	24	24
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	15	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	32	36
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>221</b>

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

Kilmurry is most welcome back to the Tidy Towns competition and we are delighted to be visiting again after your first entry last year. As you progress in the contest you will grow in confidence and experience. Your first three-year plan was admired and read with interest. It does lack ambition somewhat but, as stated, as you settle into the contest you may re-evaluate what is possible. With 10 on your committee you have great support and this will be the bedrock of progress. Persevere with forming relations with support agencies, especially Clare county council as these will be essential in getting things done. Do draw on the experience of your neighbouring villages as you will have much to learn from each other, something which it is noted you are already doing. Your map was very clear, but as the adjudicator carries this around the village do make sure that the key to the numbers is on the sheet itself (a brief reference, you can keep the full description in the entry form). Your use of photos is excellent. The adjudicator really liked these as they clearly demonstrate the impact of the work you have done.

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

The renovation of the well is a fantastic project, simple and well executed. The before and after photos are perfectly placed to show the impact. You are commended also for taking on board comments in last year's report. While our suggestions are just that, we like to think they are given due consideration. The pump house looks well and the copy of the proclamation was admired on its wall. The neighbouring board seems ill suited to a poster of the Wild Atlantic Way and perhaps would be better with content more relevant to the locality. The church is a beautiful focal point in the village and its colour scheme works well. The 'scoop the poop' sign was still on the wall at the time of adjudication. The restored pump looks really great. The school is a lovely building with neat planting and was well decked out with flags. It would be nice to see the entrance gates get a lick of paint.

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

Daffodils are great when planted in large numbers, big clusters have the best impact. Planting new ash trees is great as these native trees grow well in our climate. Hawthorn hedging is generally better than beech as beech is not a native species and offers little to our wildlife. Cherry trees and other perennial shrubs work well in a bed beside the pump house. Across the road boxes with shrubs don't really work while traffic cones added to the scattered appearance. Some native trees would probably be better in this location. The beech hedge beside Flair should be removed (and replanted elsewhere) and replaced with a native hedge that would blend in with those around it.

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

Do be clear in your sentences so that the adjudicator can distinguish between projects completed and those which are planned. If you helped the school in their biodiversity green flag please provide the details. Was your group or the school responsible for the bird and bat boxes, habitats map and hedgehog talk? Either way these are wonderful initiatives and are exactly the type of activity the adjudicator is looking to reward. Don't let the children have all the fun and make sure the rest of the community has the opportunity to engage with the wonderful nature that is all around you. House martins are nesting in the eaves of the school roof, perhaps there is a project in investigating these birds and their phenomenal migrations.

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

The school's participation in the green flag program is a very important part of this category. Try to learn from what they have done and choose some projects which can be promoted throughout the community. Well done to the men's shed for turning pallets into flower boxes. Try to analyse all of your activities in this way to see if there are opportunities to eliminate waste. 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 on participating in the national spring clean, it's incredible how much waste you gathered and hopefully this will not be so great in future years. Your programme of litter patrols will be invaluable in maintaining the high standard of presentation required in the contest. It is hoped you can address the poor state of your post box in due course – in fact it appeared this had already been done – good stuff. The village is generally very tidy and clean while litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard.

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

A beautiful estate on the Sixmilebridge Road was admired for the neat verges. The hanging baskets here have little effect and these are best retained for doorways or particular points of interest. Do keep an eye on the trees as some are doing better than others. Recent planting was admired. Does this estate have a name? None could be seen. Attractive homes were admired along this road and the low stone walls are particular highlights.

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

The approach from Sixmilebridge is attractive with the plain but tidy name sign. A nice project would be to paint field gates a uniform colour. Road surfacing seems to be good throughout. The drainage works have left a rather rough appearance, would this not have been better tarmaced? A heap of soil has nearly smothered a cherry tree and obscured an old heritage stone wall while traffic cones have been discarded. Do pursue the appropriate finish at the footpath, at the time of adjudication the road markings had been repainted but there were still plastic bollards and empty poles. The path itself though is very much to be welcomed. On approach from Quin the wire fencing on the right-hand side of the road is an eyesore. Could you work with the owners to find a more visually sympathetic solution?

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Kilmurry is a charming rural village and you are making great strides in only a short time. Focus on good planning to guide your actions and seek advice where necessary. Best of luck.