

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcar** Ref: **272**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **279**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
TOTAL MARK	450	275	279

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome Kilcar TidyTowns Committee to the 2016 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition. Well done on your preparations for the competition and well done on your Entry form. Your committee are well versed in the ways of the TidyTowns Competition after 20 years. You evidently have support in your community and you understand the need to keep the people informed as to your TidyTowns affairs. The adjudicator wonders what the nature of your interaction with Fiontar is. Mention of the Green Flag of the National School in this section also. The adjudicator wishes you well in your ventures and looks forward to his visit. A special word of thanks to the artist who prepared the map. It is a classic and was most helpful.

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

One is impressed immediately by the stone walls as one approaches the Church. That building now towers over all. But it is great to find that the earlier Church now acts as the Parish Hall. Further down the street one reads a fascinating information panel on the ecclesiastical history of this little village. Sad that the Protestant Church has not met a similar fate and usage as the old Catholic Church. The calvary at the graveyard is another stand out feature of the built environment. Most impressive is the design and appearance of the school. The street from the top of the hill looks well with its mix of residential houses, pubs, businesses, the Health Centre, colours all seeming to compliment one another. Beautiful. There are echoes of times past with the use of the Gaeilge at Céad Míle Fáilte, for example.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

This is a green fingered village as is evident from the moment one leaves the main road. The frequency of hanging baskets, of window boxes, of boxes of flowers, of relaxing seats throughout the village illustrates that TidyTowns is a village preoccupation whose ideals are treasured in Kilcar. All of these efforts brighten up your village. The water feature adds to the interest of the visit. But what impresses this adjudicator is that now you plant with the birds and the bees in mind. Gods little creatures are foremost in your priorities. Wonderful. It is great to find the raised beds at the school with vegetables and flowers growing apace. The shrubberies in the two estates are most attractive.

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

Your wildlife, your habitats and your natural amenities are an important part of the heritage of this village. These must be cherished in case they go the way of the Irish language. Habitats must be encouraged and enhanced. So the adjudicator is pleased to find the information panels on the birds, to learn that you have planted 30 trees during the year, that wild flowers are on your agenda. He is pleased that you are aware of the curse of Japanese

Knotweed and kept the eyes open to spot this horror. There is a healthy (unhealthy) outbreak which needs your attention. The adjudicator also lauds your efforts to open up a nature walk that would afford people a opportunity to witness the nesting area of the birds you mention. But not, of course, not at the expense of the birds.

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

The content of the paragraph on sustainable living in your submission shows that you have a clear concept of what is required in this section. All of the projects mentioned are relevant as in the water harvesting butts. Good to read that you are not just conserving for the sake of it but have plans for this water. Your involvement with the school and the Green Flag programme has been mentioned above and is admirable. Last year's adjudicator suggested that you register with greenhomes.ie so you took the message and sent the secretary on a food waste awareness course. Great idea and even better that she has followed up on what she learned to show what she learned. For the coming year ensure that you do not sit back but choose a new project or two to enliven your enthusiasm. Well done to all involved in both the community garden and in the school garden.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on the efforts you describe in this section. There is very little litter about, some on the road by the graveyard, some on the street across from the Take Away but in such a small village in such beautiful surroundings one would expect none at all. You mention that you litter pick for miles on the approach roads. Well done. That is a wonderful service to all on those roads. There are a number of factors that contribute to the tidy appearance of Kilcar. The beautiful stone walls that have been so expertly built at various times, the clear road markings but above all the pride expressed by people in their homes and premises with their fresh and continuous painting. There may be a few things that would help down around the Áisleann like controlling the amounts of fly posting or ensuring there is no dumping as at the lovely bridge. Black bags at the Bring Banks leave a bad taste. One was pleased to find a sign: Ná caith bruscair.

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

It seems incredible to the city slicker that the housing explosion of the Celtic Tiger would reach so far from the Metropolis. But it did and most likely gave you An Glasán, a lovely estate much enhanced by the fabulous shrubbery across the road. Then there is the indignity of the unfinished roadway across the way but the residents are doing their best to emphasise the positive with their delightful gardens. We wish them luck in their crisis. Cruckarra is another fine estate, its high green wall expressing the pride of the residents in where they live. The hanging baskets are most appropriate here as they add to the interest of that wall. On that Carrick road the steep hills at each side of the valley are an ideal setting for the many houses as if these houses were actors on the stage, the hillsides. Housing on the main street does the residents proud. All seems spick and span, each building enhancing that of the neighbour. The adjudicator is pleased to read that you support the residents in maintaining their house fronts.

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

One arrived by the new road layout and saw at first hand what wonderful work you are doing at the junction to welcome your own people back from their journey away and to entice the reluctant visitor to change their plans for a minute and turn left. The Kilcar sign is ready to be put in place but the welcome has been set with the landscaping. All the way down the hill the roadsides are strimmed and the way looks divine. Then at the bottom of the hill those two smiling faces greet one with a céad mile to town. On the far side it is a challenge to keep one's eyes on the road for the scenery keeps attracting the eye from the road. Here the roadsides are not as strimmed but they accentuate the wild surroundings. The fence looks as if it keeps very little either inside or outside but befits its surroundings. One has pity for the cyclist not just because of the coronary hills but for the competition for space with cars.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a real joy to visit Kilcar as this place is a place of beauty. As an adjudicator it was an equal pleasure to find that you value the treasured place you live in and that you make Trojan efforts to ensure that you enhance the quality of the Kilcar experience in whatever ways are possible. Nár laga Dia sibh.