

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill** Ref: **374**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **314**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **01/07/2016**

|                                           | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2015 | Mark<br>Awarded 2016 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning          | 60              | 45                   | 45                   |
| Built Environment and Streetscape         | 50              | 39                   | 39                   |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces               | 50              | 45                   | 46                   |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities  | 50              | 29                   | 30                   |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50              | 16                   | 17                   |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90              | 64                   | 64                   |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 50              | 32                   | 33                   |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 50              | 40                   | 40                   |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>450</b>      | <b>310</b>           | <b>314</b>           |

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

We welcome Kill to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition 2016. Thank you for your entry form, which was accompanied by a helpful map and photos. Are you working to any Tidy Towns Plan? You might submit a copy next time. Thank you to Kildare Co Co EAO for submitting your recent 'Walkabout Survey' report. This shows how you are seeking good advice in terms of your various projects. It is always good to get an knowledgeable 'outside eye' to make recommendations under the Tidy Towns categories. Well done and do remember to include any such assistance in your future entries.

Your voluntary committee of 13 members has good support from local businesses in the area. Positive engagement with Kildare County Council is helping you to achieve your goals. We are glad to read that you are receiving good support from local schools and community groups such as scouts and the Men's Shed group. You communicate with your residents via parish newsletter and public meetings as well as through contact with your residents associations. Keep up the good work!

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

Kill is an attractive village just off the M7 motorway. You have succeeded in preserving an attractive streetscape, despite the challenges of a fast-growing village. The new Scoil Bhride is a fine building, where landscaping is starting to 'settle in'. The painting of walls at Saplings school and Community Centre is more relevant to this category. All was in neat order at the nicely designed Eurospar – attempts have been to enhance the area with flower displays. The empty noticeboards give a slightly untidy impression. The car park was in neat order with excellent bin storage. The refreshed John Devoy monument looks well. A few signs stored outside Kill Pharmacy give a slightly untidy impression. This end of the street is not as attractive. Would the businesses in this complex be willing to sponsor a few planters here to brighten up the appearance? The 'Sunny' sign requires attention. All was in good order at the Embassy Office Park. The Dew Drop Inn has a traditional style and is nicely painted. A sign is missing from a pole here. The church and car park were very well maintained.

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

You have done some nice work within this category while still respecting your local biodiversity. There was attention to detail in so many small areas, yet you haven't gone over the top either. The main street was particularly impressive. Trees in timber planters work well in this environment. Permanent tree planting also enhances – perhaps the young succours could be removed from the lower end of the trunks. All street furniture was clean and welcoming. Planters were in excellent condition and are suitably placed on wide pavement areas. They bring colour to the street. Stone flower beds are an attractive feature throughout. The church grotto contains a nice mix of planting. The geraniums compliment the water pump and make it an attractive feature. The park grass was a little

long but the simply landscaped park was otherwise lovely. The black/yellow colour theme works well. Thank you providing us with photos of your daffodils and cherry blossoms in bloom – a magnificent sight! The heather bed in spring was also admired in the photos. The 'An Chill' box bed looks well.

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

You are making good progress here. The new (partially completed) tree trail is one of the best this adjudicator has seen. We loved the way the leaves of the trees were so close to the image on the sign and simple information about the tree. We like the fact that you are linking up various areas in the village to create 'wildlife corridors'. Further encouragement is being provided by your log piles, dead hedges and bug hotels. You are encouraging butterflies by appropriate choice of plants. The wooden signs blend in well. We enjoyed the lovely cherry tree walk. The area beside the Kill river is a lovely amenity. The fact that you have sought expert advice in all of the above is reassuring. We look forward to hearing of some joint initiatives with Scoil Bhride as part of their Biodiversity Green Flag Programme. Well done to all involved.

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

You have implemented some good initiatives under this heading. We are impressed with your novel initiative to reuse the used coffee beans to mulch beds and deter slugs. The composting area looks great and sends out a strong message to the community. You have been supporting the schools in their Green Flag initiatives. Congratulations to Scoil Bhride for achieving their Biodiversity (4th) Green Flag on Travel. We wish them success with their Biodiversity Flag.

You are using rainwater to water your plants. Papers are collected (from where?) for use as animal bedding. Spring Clean should be mentioned under 'Tidiness & Litter' category only. We look forward to hearing of further progress next year.

#### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Your appointment of an 'anti litter officer' shows that you are serious in your fight to combat litter. As you rightly point out, outer approaches are a challenge. However for the purposes of this competition, Kill very clean on the day of our visit, apart from a few pieces of minor litter in the park and nearby car park. Well done to all involved in regular litter-picks. Do you segregate collected litter for recycling? You have also been tackling the issue of dog fouling, through your erection of signage and ongoing awareness campaign.

Kill presents a very tidy appearance – this is down to the fact that you have been paying attention to detail and endeavouring to get all sectors of the community on board with your efforts. We note your ongoing lobbying efforts to have the ESB poles replaced. The new fence around the bottle banks greatly enhances this area- it was spotless on the day of our visit. We are impressed with your efforts to carry out manual edging along kerbs and avoid the use of potentially harmful weed killer.

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

Kill residences are obviously proud of their lovely village. Residences along approach roads were neatly presented. We admired some lovely gardens with a good mix of colour for year round interest. Kill has many residential developments, all very nicely maintained and landscaped. Some have lovely open green areas. Some that caught the eye were Earl's Court, Glendara, St. , The Gables and St. Patrick's Park. The latter was particularly colourful and welcoming and we congratulate residents on their 2015 Pride of Place award. Well done for your ongoing engagement with all Kill residents.

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

The horse themed landscaped roundabout provides an impressive welcome to Kill-north. We note your involvement here. Does KTT maintain the roundabouts or have assistance from Kildare Co Co? Approaches are clean and attractive. We admired the 'Welcome to Kill' stones. Grass verges were well maintained, road signage and surfacing were in good order– all contributing to a good overall first impression.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

You are at a high level in the competition so we would like to congratulate you on your recent achievements which cross-checked with the excellent standards observed during adjudication. Well done Kill for a superb effort!