

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Suncroft** Ref: **386**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **253**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	33	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	45
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	27	27
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>253</b>

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

Suncroft is welcome back to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition 2016 – you are involved over 20 years in Tidy Towns and your participation is important. Your sketch map was most helpful in enabling us to find our way around your village and your various projects.

Your committee of 6 members has the support of the wider community for specific tasks. It would be nice to know roughly how many volunteers from the community get involved in Tidy Towns activities.

You have been forging good links with outside agencies such as Kildare Co Co. The fact that you have the support of several local community groups and businesses is also leading to good results, You are engaging very well with the local school and Foroige on all Tidy Towns related activities. You communicate your messages via a variety of channels including parish newsletter, phone, text and email.

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

We are always delighted to hear that derelict houses are being renovated – a great relief for the community too. The modern Community Complex is an impressive facility where everything was neat and tidy. This area contains fine sports facilities, playground and ample car parking. The entrance sign is fresh and welcoming. The sign frame inside the wall just looked a little untidy. Can this be removed or will it be used? We liked the colour scheme at the Suncroft Inn – attractive premises in the heart of the village. We were heartened to see the ‘Sale Agreed’ sign on the former parochial house. Hopefully this lovely home will have a new occupier soon. Could the sign frame at the boundary wall of this house be removed as soon as possible? (Former noticeboard?). The Well Pub was undergoing a makeover during our visit. All was in good order at both graveyards. The Daybreak and adjacent outlets are rather drab in presentation compared to others in the village. We were glad to note that the former butchers shop will shortly be reopened as a take away. In the meantime, if the papers could be removed from the windows, it wouldn't look so derelict in appearance. They currently draw the eye for the wrong reasons. The green water pump makes for a lovely feature. The white utilities building beside it has been freshly painted and was surprisingly neat. Normally functional buildings are eyesores in a village – well done!

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

Across from the Community Complex, the raised beds are well-maintained and bring a sense of pride to this area. Are these maintained by the nearby residents? Could the nearby concrete wall be painted? Church View has a lovely mix of planting including trees, a large name stone and the green space is beautifully maintained. The impressive garden to the rear of the Nursing Home also caught our eye. The conifers in the tubs look like they're struggling. The grotto is another nicely landscaped area that is getting good care; however the bed on the other side of the wall looks a little neglected and was in need of weeding. The school has some fine mature trees towards the

front of its expansive grounds. The bed in front of the Gala entrance needs weeding.

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

Our first stop in Suncroft was at the Tidy Towns Amenity Garden, having spotted the signpost on our approach to the village. Unfortunately this area has become a little neglected so some rebranding is needed. As it is no longer being maintained to a formal degree, why not rename it your biodiversity garden. If you do plant anything new there, do some research and only plant native plants that will be of use to birds, butterflies or other wildlife. This site is perfect for it as it is out of the village in the 'countryside' so to speak. We gather this may be a walking loop so locals could still get to pass it and perhaps learn a little about the biodiversity on their doorstep. It would still be a peaceful and special place where loved ones can be respectfully remembered. There were a few minor tidiness issues here; there was a refuse bin turned sideways in the hedgerow, also the stone plaque is chipped and needs repair. As it is, we don't think you should be highlighting it as an 'amenity area' that visitors should seek out. We are sorry to hear that your allotments in the former parochial house had to close. Hopefully people will feel it's worth seeking an alternative site to get this worthwhile project up and running again. Let us know if and when the school children are working on their 'Biodiversity' Green Flag as it is very relevant here. They may have carried out bird or wildlife surveys. We're not sure what you mean by the 'Suncroft Way'. Is it a former walking route? We didn't see it on your map.

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

You are a little vague regarding how you support your school in these projects so it is difficult to award you marks. Do tell us next time what theme of the Green Flag programme the school is now working on. This is important in term of your own work and you should be linking in with their actions. Any Reuse initiatives in the school (books, uniforms etc.) would be relevant here. How do you prevent waste in your own Tidy Towns activities? E.g. using rainwater to water summer bedding, selecting plants that require less water and using salvage materials in any landscaping projects. Any repair or upcycling in the community? Please refer to the 2015 guidelines and pick a few ideas that would work best for Suncroft. Your Kildare Co Co Environment Awareness Officer also runs several free events for community groups in relation to this category. Perhaps you could offer to host one? Visit [www.localprevention.ie/tidytowns](http://www.localprevention.ie/tidytowns) to see what other initiatives are happening around the country. We look forward to hearing of further progress next year.

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

It is frustrating for you to have to deal with people illegally dumping waste on the roadsides during the night. You are corresponding with the litter warden in this regard and hopefully one or two prosecutions might help curb the problem. There was very little litter on the day of our visit. Please tell us about any voluntary litter patrols or awareness campaigns. From your first category, we gather you might get assistance from the school and Foróige for local clean ups? Do you participate in National Spring Clean? The open topped litter bins are a poor design these days as they are open to abuse and birds/wind can get at the litter. Do remember to include items under 'Tidiness' here also. Have a read over the text under each of the category headings to remind you of what the adjudicator is looking for. Weeds should be removed from the base of the front wall at the school and footpath opposite if possible as they give an untidy impression. The bin outside the school gate needs attention. A pole without a sign was also observed nearby – the council should be written to with a list of any such poles and a request to remove same if not going to be used. The area outside Daybreak was a little littered and untidy due to items lying around.

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

We were impressed by the neatness of most homes and gardens throughout Suncroft – there is an obvious air of village pride among your residents. Well done to all involved. The charming 'Katie's Cottage' with its thatched roof caught our eye immediately. Eascarath was neat. Around the corner heading towards the community complex, we couldn't clearly read the name of the housing estate but all was in good order. On the Newbridge Road, past the school, the paint is peeling badly on a boundary wall. Attractive homes and gardens along this road enhance the overall appearance. Hawthorn Wood is beautifully maintained with landscaping maturing nicely. The pedestrian pathways were admired here. The colourful garden opposite the old graveyard stood out for all the right reasons - the bees were enjoying it too! The sympathetic cottage restoration downhill was also admired. Newtown Grove was neat and tidy – the splash of red colour at the name sign is nicely done. Please tell us if you have residents associations, how you communicate with these groups and if they are taking responsibility for their own areas.

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

There is a lovely stream-side green area outside the boundary of Eascarath estate. Could the old concrete/mesh fence be removed? Is it still necessary? Nearby, just off the bad bend, was a beautiful laneway that appeared to run parallel to the stream. Is this a popular walking route? It's not named on your map. Road surfaces, footpaths and markings were good throughout. Could the field gate adjacent to the church be painted black to blend in with the nearby church and field gates and generally improve the aesthetic here? The Newbridge Road has an attractive name stone.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

You are making ongoing improvements, increasing community pride and making Suncroft a more attractive place to live. Well done.

