

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Keshcarrigan** Ref: **432**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **276**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2016**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>276</b>

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

Keshcarrigan Development Association Ltd is welcome to this the 2016 Tidy Towns Competition. It is a number of years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting your village and a lot of development had taken place in the meantime. Much work was evident on Adjudication day. We were pleased to hear that you use social networking and media in order to communicate your activities and work. You would also appear to have a close relationship with the various local statutory bodies. You have taken part in the competition for many years now and the village continues to improve from year to year.

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

We note your work in relation to the resurfacing of the parking area by the recycling banks. The cleaning and clearing of the overgrown pathway to the Dolmen at Lough Scur is a commendable project. Repainting and revarnishing of street furniture will pay dividends as it makes a huge difference to the appearance of roadsides. The encouragement of owners to look after derelict buildings is to your credit. There was a large derelict building with a metal roof at the Leitrim side of the village. There were also a number of empty retail buildings on the Carrick on Shannon side of the village. It was also a quite weedy in this location. Some of the streetscape was not intact with empty abandoned sites such as that opposite the empty retail area previously mentioned, which looked a little unfortunate. Commercial premises of the town generally looked well cared for on the day of note being Mc Keon's and Gertie's. Do ensure that the render is not removed from traditional vernacular buildings as this can lead to problems with water penetration as well as being incorrect from a conservation point of view.

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

The magnificent landscaped space by the lake with its playground and associated car park at Fr Mychal Judge Peace Garden was in good condition. However, there was the very odd spot of litter and the picnic furniture could be sanded down and revarnished before next year's competition, as it was looking a little neglected. The hedge in this location between the picnic area and the playground had been cut back but the shorn leaves had yet to be removed. Also the flags were damaged and torn - presumably by the wind. There is scope for further work in this area - perhaps by extending the playground? We greatly admired the small grotto and the larger unusual modern sculpture of Fionn Mac Cumghaill at the entrance on the Leitrim side of the village. He certainly does look fierce!

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

There was certainly much evidence of bird life at the Lakeside picnic area the day! We applaud your ongoing conservation of all the wildlife areas in and around the village. It was good to note that you have foxes, badgers,

hedgehogs, pine martens, otters and the ever rarer native red squirrel. Much bird life is evident with the common heron, ducks, geese, swans but it was unusual to note that you also have kingfishers! You also note the high level of fish species in the two lakes. You note that you maintain your biodiversity, allow access to natural areas, create wildlife habitats and raise awareness all of which is to the good. It was good to those that you maintain your lake and river walks while ensuring there is no disturbance to the wildlife population. Your wildflower garden encouraging pollination is commendable. It was good to note that you provide shelter for hedgehogs and bird boxes.

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

The resurfacing of the parking area of the recycling banks is commendable. The planting of apple trees is a clever idea. You also promote the use of the recycling centre and composting amongst the local community. You say you worked closely with Leitrim County Council regarding responsible waste management. Perhaps you could look further at developing this aspect of the competition? Consult with the County Council and your Tidy Towns Handbook for inspiration in this regard. Some dumping was evident at the recycling area on the day.

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

We were pleased to hear you involve the local children in relation to your litter picking and that you engage with local schools in relation to the litter awareness. It was good to note that you participate in an Taisce's National Spring Clean. The Adopt a Road Scheme is a good initiative and it was pleasing to note that you participate in this. We note you encourage local businesses to keep advertising signs to a minimum. There was evidence of the flyposting and advertising hoardings on the day and this should be discouraged as it can give roadsides a rather cluttered appearance. The Keshcarrigan sign at the harbour area was not in good condition and creates a negative first impression for people coming up from the waterside area. The road surface in this location was rather rough also-perhaps contact the council in regard to its resurfacing. Weeds were in evidence on the Fenagh side of village.

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

There are certainly far more houses in the village than when this adjudicator previously visited Keshcarrigan a number of years ago. We were pleased to note that you liaise with local residents to ensure that roads pathways et cetera are maintained and litter free. As you note, the cutting of grass and weed control are very important when it comes to the overall appearance of houses and estates. A lovely thatched cottage in the centre of the village creates a very positive impact. An Gairdin is a very attractive well landscaped estate. Brooklawn is a lovely house with attractive garden and the nearby houses sported some fine stone walling. The attractive Crannog estate makes a very strong impression in this category of the competition.

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

The approach roads to the village were generally quite well maintained. Weed control was an issue on the day but appeared to be being tackled. It was good to note that you monitor monuments and street furniture and clean and paint as required. The marvellous traditional phone box in the centre of the village should be restored to its former glory. Rear area near Mc Keons looked unfortunate and should be screened from public view. Signage in this vicinity was also in need of attention – the village sign at the harbour area has been noted elsewhere in this report and the Leitrim Lakelands sign on the main street looked rather neglected also. The Mohill approach is an attractive one along the lake side. Roadworks were taking place on the Fenagh road which resulted in it being not as well maintained as the other approaches. No doubt this will improve once works are completed and did not affect your marks in this category.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Keshcarrigan is set in a marvellous lakeside setting. Much work was evident on the day-congratulations to all concerned.