

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilconnell** Ref: **1811**
County: **Galway** Mark: **255**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28	28
TOTAL MARK	450	248	255

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project. A big thank you to everyone involved in putting together what was a most complete and interesting entry this year. Thank you for all of the pictures and details on the events and projects. You have had a busy year. There is no need to supply all the emails etc., you could just describe any significant correspondence which you have generally done throughout your entry.

It seems like you communicate well online with website and Facebook etc. and you have a strong volunteer base. You work with both the national school and the pre-school which is great. 'Everyone can do something and together we can do a lot' - a terrific motto.

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

You have helped spur on positive activity within the business community and that is so important. As businesses and individuals gain confidence from good community spirit, it will achieve a momentum. It's great that you are looking to the past on your work toward highlighting the Abbey as well as moving forward with projects such as the sensory garden. Gibbon's Bar/Shop was neat and tidy. The Wayside Cross is an unusual monument and the adjudicator isn't sure that he's seen another in Ireland. The information here is excellent. The Abbey - or is it a Friary? - was very much admired.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You've been busy in this category with tree-planting, work at the cemetery and raised bed planting at the GAA. You are looking to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan for guidance and this is great. Perhaps you could supply some further details on species, planting plans etc. in next year's entry. The community park is a lovely little area and has a great organic feel to it. The adjudicator feels that other groups should strive for 'low-impact' parks such as this. The sign for the park is nice but the playground sign is looking a little weathered and dirty. The community garden is just brilliant, well done to all who help maintain this. The notice is beautifully done. On your approach roads there are several 'forgotten' flower beds that seem to have been overlooked.

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

You've done very well in this category too. Well done on the BioBlitz - a really important event. Well done on recording over 100 species. You got notable experts to help you with your work in this regard, excellent. Good luck with your Gold Status for Pollinators. This is really useful work with a genuine need at its core. The adjudicator

loves your 'don't feed bread to ducks' sign - excellent! If only every group could do this... Your wooden wildlife information plaques were much admired. The little Tidy Towns notices were much admired.

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

And again a great submission here. You have 'nailed it' with several of your projects here. These include: moving away from water-hungry planting, upcycling and helping to facilitate WOW days. The adjudicator visited your polytunnel and herb garden. The reuse of the boards from the lake is to be admired. Well done. The Green Flag at Scoil Naomh Gabriel was noted. The wooden fingersign here is gorgeous.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on the encouraging trend in litter in Kilconnell. Your positive action is paying dividends already. Your approach to weed control - and again reference to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan - is sound. Again, we'd ask you to tell us how many volunteers take part in the events such as Spring Clean and some idea of quantities of litter etc.

The adjudicator was surprised to see a burning barrel at the crossroads. This looked so out of place. A few days later (elsewhere) he saw a wedding party being welcomed thus and realised that this must be a local tradition. There are several road signs that are in need of cleaning or replacement.

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

You report a high level of care for even the unoccupied dwellings in the village. This is good. You could consider a Tidy Towns Garden Competition for residents to show off how well they can garden. An unoccupied old building has been splendidly painted and looks so well.

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

Thanks for your entry information here which was sufficiently detailed. Once again, you demonstrate a good crossover with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan invoked on mowing regimes. Perhaps remove some of the former flower beds from your approaches. The main road from Aughrim has tree-planting but it is uneven. It is suggested that a hawthorn hedgerow along the roadside here is planted.

Concluding Remarks:

A most interesting visit was had. You have been busy without overdoing the 'pretty' and you have frequently let nature do the talking, using willow and native perennial plants. You have devised and maintained two truly valuable community spaces. Well done all.