

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildorrery** Ref: **457**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **310**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
TOTAL MARK	450	304	310

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Community spirit is alive and well in your village. We note from your submission that you are currently part of a pilot project to take over some of the tasks that were previously provided by the council. The standard you are maintaining your village at is testament to the hard work. The community spirit is reflected in a lot of your projects from the donation of the farm machinery by the O'Brien family on the approach road to the wonderful Community Gardens.

The link to the past seems important to community of Kildorrery. The milk churns on the way in, updating the creamery site, the plaque showing the site of the first Cow & Gate plant and the information signs are some of the great examples.

The Kildorrery International Food Fair seemed like a great community event from the Kildorrery community page on Facebook. Anything that involves community coming together can generally find a home in the Tidy Towns Category. You did mention the use of recycled wood cable reels as tables, but anything else which you might take as standard now such as recycling / composting of food waste etc. should be highlighted. I couldn't find your Facebook page but did find the Kildorrery Community Garden webpage. I note that you took account of last years adjudicators remarks and that you reduced the size of your entry. Hopefully this also allowed you more time to concentrate on your projects. Well done in taking the plunge and entering on-line. It is a success!

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

The main street itself is very well kept. Burke's stands out as a nice example of a well maintained premises with a lovely signage. The bright red door does add a splash of colour. Sheahans Lounge with its bright doors looks well as does Ollie's Bar. There were some tables and chairs out on the day of adjudication but the path was wide enough to allow this and they didn't seem to cause any obstruction.

The continuing improvement of the Thatch & Thyme community office and restaurant must be the jewel in the crown of your community projects as well as providing a wonderful building. The courtyard garden is an amazing place made only more amazing by seeing that a few short years previously it was an overgrown mess. Many villages lament the lack of a place for locals for meet up and have a cup of tea etc. just for social reasons. This provides that facility along with a restaurant that must make it a destination of choice for those passing by to revive in. We picked up the Community Newsletter here which made reference to the Tidy Towns Committee.

Your use of before and after photos in your submission is to be commended in illustrating the work carried out. This was especially effective in the project of updating the Creamery yard.

The gates to the old cemetery are nicely painted. It is unfortunate that access is not possible here although the view from the Gates shows it is well maintained.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The new water feature outside the Post Office is very attractive. This area in general is very well kept. The new mural with theme of biodiversity with the birds and butterflies is a wonderful addition. Congratulations to all involved.

The grotto is very accessible and well maintained.

The school grounds could do with some improvements. In an area that is surrounded by so much nature and life it is lacking in this. Maybe a small vegetable garden could be considered? Considering its proximity to the impressive Community Garden there should be someone in the community that may be able to advise with this.

The playground is small but well maintained. There was a bird box noted at the end of the school grounds near the playground, which is a nice touch.

The sign for the Community Garden with the vegetables etched in gives a very good first impression of this impressive community facility. The link to the old farm machinery is echoed here to. A common theme always provides good linkage. Although it is closed to non members we were able to view from the outside the impressive polytunnel, raised beds which were laden with healthy looking vegetables. The seating area helps to create the community feel. After all of the work it is healthy to sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labours. Although community based, it has a professional finish including the obligatory scarecrow!

The village park is maturing nicely and will provide an even better resource in years to come. Investing in parks is a great investment in a community.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

The use of lavender on the way in looks so impressive but also offers a wonderful pollinator friendly source of food. Kildorrery community garden is a haven for the pollinators.

Your continued small steps improvement to you Heritage and wildlife trail is great to see. Your bare earth area for bees on the Mitchelstown road may not be a huge project but it is the culmination of a lot of small projects like this that have a huge effect.

We are happy to note that your bug hotel continues to attract eager visitors.

The hatching of 100 pheasant eggs is one of the more unusual projects that we have come across this year. We look forward to seeing how the poults get on in your new wildlife garden.

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

It was noticed on the Kildorrery Community Garden post on Facebook the culture of exchange amongst those that are involved in growing their own was illustrated in a post offering "spare tomatoes, dill mint and grapevine free to a good home". This is in addition to the use of the fruit and vegetables being used in the Thatch & Thyme restaurant. Now that is a low carbon footprint!

It was great to see the compost been turned from waste to compost in 6 weeks. When people can see the results so quickly it generally encourages extra usage.

It will also be interesting to see the results of your "Super users" and see if their work can be replicated within the community.

Your award "Lets get Buzzing" is testament to your work in raising awareness of the importance of the value of pollinators.

The bring bank on the GAA grounds is well maintained and no notable signs of litter on day of adjudication.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village has kept up its high standards of when it won the Cork County Litter Challenge 2014. The fact that this is commemorated on a stone plaque with a poem by a local including the line "Keep it as it should be kept" is testament to the central role that pride of place continues to have in your village. A litter free village is not just environmentally pleasing it is a general display that people care about their area.

In general the village was litter free on adjudication day. There was some examples of dog fouling so maybe that could be addressed.

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

The finished Hillcrest Estate looks very well. The picture from your submission allows us better appreciate the improvement in the houses on Limerick Road.

The houses along the main street are in general very well maintained and some are newly painted.

Oaklawn housing estate is very well maintained with lovely maturing trees. The bright differently coloured doors really add to this area. All gardens seemed well cared for. Maybe the proximity to the community garden helps!

The aptly named Mountain View house was one of a number of well kept houses on this street.

It is wonderful to note that some residents associations have taken on responsibility for maintaining extra parts of the village such as the Bearna Dearn Housing Residents Association.

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

The approach road from Mallow is so impressive. The way that the farm machinery is even sloped to face the traffic rather than the road front to ensure better viewings from cars approaching is very good attention to detail and would certainly encourage people to stop. The information sign showing what each piece of machinery was used for makes this not just a piece of art but an outdoor museum to ensure that future generations can see the tools of the past.

The stone signs are impressive and the Slán on the way out is a nice touch.

A nice avenue of trees on the way in create a lovely impression.

The solar panel speed limit sign didn't appear to be working on the day of adjudication.

While we realise the Health and Safety implication of cars stopping at the Viewing point on the Mitchesltown road you might consider signposting in the village that it is walkable to ensure more people get to admire this impressive view. Nice wide well maintained road. Although it is just outside the boundary we thought we should mention the well maintained thatched cottage here.

The welcome sign here might benefit from some planting especially when compared to the sign from the other side.

Concluding Remarks:

Kildorrery really seems to embrace the concept of the community working together for the greater benefit of the community. It is not surprising you were chosen as the pilot group for taking over some tasks within your community. If it is done with the same level of dedication as your other projects it is sure to succeed. Best of luck.