

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill** Ref: **374**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **320**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **19/06/2017**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	46	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	41
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>320</b>

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

Congratulations to Kill Tidy Towns Committee for entering the 2017 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. Our wish for you is that your participation in the competition assists you in your ambitious plans for Kill. There appears to be a free spirited nature to the content and presentation of your submission. The adjudicator loved the handwritten entry form and the freestyle, hand drawn map which was most helpful and user-friendly. I felt there was no need to include so many photographs. Use photographs as an aid to the adjudicator to show events or flowers in bloom in another season. But one or two examples will suffice. The mission statement in your five year plan to 2021 is not only ambitious but also admirable in its ideals. The adjudicator likes especially the approach that you have an action plan for the current year but also a long-term plan to 2021 in all sections. Your entry form emphasises the work you do for wildlife and for sustainable living. Very good. The adjudicator would've liked more information on the level of community commitment in the form.

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

The town centre of Kill has undergone a transformation, one suspects, in recent decades from a built environment viewpoint. And yet due to the influence of the Churches and the influence of the town centre housing schemes on their surroundings Kill retains much of the traditional village character. The Catholic Church and the parish buildings, the Church of Ireland building are stand out buildings that belong to that traditional image. The new school, an essential development in catering for the modern needs of the village, will take some time to bed into its site. Your 10 point landscaping plan will certainly help. While the stone finish on Clarendon Court and the Eurospar are settling into their surroundings the 1943 rebuild from 1794 asserts its right to recognition. Well done to your committee on the projects you have undertaken in this section, most of which would be as suitable in the Tidiness category as in the Built category. Freshly painted railings and themed bollards further emphasise the pride that this community takes in its town.

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

It is the landscaping that supports the buildings of Kill to provide a natural small town setting that is full of personality. In this category also the presence of a mature tree stock blends beautifully with the planting of more recent times. The removal of the offending Leylandii will not only create more light but is an opportunity for those among you with green fingers to make a lasting impression on that site. The tubs of summer colour light up the village centre. Yellow seems to be the prevalent foil to the green vegetation. The village pump is celebrated in its coat of yellow. Shrubberies abound. A 1943 rebuild emphasises the heritage of Kill. The window boxes at the Saplings show respect for this building that has been central to Kill living for many years. Though one felt that these window boxes were a little jaded in appearance. An Chill is a delight. Tree planting has been a policy for many

years and it is to your credit that you too have an active approach to planting as at the GG and to renewal as with the Leylandii. Hedging, of various varieties, is another important element of your landscaping plans. It would be a shame not to mention the landscaped roundabout at the bottle bank. This is the work of volunteers, one supposes. The wooden monastery structures are a joy. The Park has been developed over the years. There are some trees in the area of the pedestrian bridge whose staked support needs to be revisited.

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

The content of your submission, the photos, your action plan and the addendum illustrate your determination to protect the wildlife habitats of the area, to promote the wellbeing of wildlife about the town and to give the residents of Kill every opportunity to enjoy the wildlife in the area. You have evidently engaged in a continuous learning process over a number of years and now you proceed with confidence with the projects you decide on and undertake. One loves to read of the bat boxes facing north and the promotion of frog life with (eat slugs) as an apparent justification for your interest in frogs. The 10 point plan for the school is as much nature based as a landscaping plan. One misses the wild and wonderful Kill if one does not drive to the roundabout at the bottle bank or if one does not leave the car and go walk about through the park and along the brook side. Wild because nature is allowed express itself, wonderful because of the manner in which the area has been shaped so that every aspect can be enjoyed by the human intruders. But the log pile, the composting area, nettles and dock in full growth, ox eye daisies, poppies and hogweed emphasise that the human is the intruder. The wooden signs are in Irish also, maybe as a gesture to the native wildlife that inhabit this area. One has to take the walk to that quaint residence and one must walk passed the pedestrian bridge to appreciate how well the people of Kill value their natural surroundings, despite the relentless drone of the traffic metres away. Well done.

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

The adjudicator raises your mark in this category mainly for the variety of projects that you have undertaken and for the survey work that has been completed. But the adjudicator at the same time feels that more can be done as this sustainable living section does not have the same buzz to it that the wildlife category had. One would expect more detailed outcomes from the results of your surveys. Yes householders have become more aware of the use of energy in the home but the outcome is somewhat blazé. What is the 'conscious effort' householders are making to minimise wastage? Was there an outcome from visiting the school about the green homes initiative? I love the composting and the usage of the coffee beans. But you still have a road to travel.

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

Regardless of which direction one takes into Kill there is a sense of order that comforts the eye. This is a community that values the area in which it lives, works, plays. There is very little litter to be seen. Paint is an important resource both in the public as well as the private realm. Road verges are beautifully maintained, weeds are a rarity but this appearance is not at the expense of nature being allowed its natural expression. Warnings as to behaviour in the Park surely assist in its presentation be the warnings about skateboards or dog fouling. One loved the bronzes. As in other categories you acknowledge the support of the Kildare County Council, a tribute to that body and to your committee. Keep an eye on the GAA area.

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

Kill has been home to generations and this can be seen in the many older estates in the village. These estates contribute so much to the Kill experience as in the case of Johnstown Heights. They stand proudly alongside the many modern estates that have created the need for the new school. These estates combine to create that welcoming, dormitory sense in the village. People are proud to live here and have the opportunity to work elsewhere. Cooperation with the residents of the estates is a common theme in the projects you mention in your submission, praiseworthy and important. All estates were visited and enjoyed. The adjudicator loved the name stone at Rochford Avenue. What one might call a leaf sculpture added a new dimension to another estate. Let's also be mindful of the contribution that individual houses make to the creation of the small town atmosphere.

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

'Erratic' and 'inconsistent' convey strong feelings regarding the efforts of the TII (NRA) and your interactions with those bodies. But the experience of the adjudicator is that the appearance of the two roundabouts and the suitability of the landscaping on both have now reached a standard that must be satisfying to you. The planting and the verging along the approach roads from the N 7 are also most attractive. The stained timber uprights are delightful street furniture as well as serving many other purposes. Formal and informal planting create interest. The hostas a delight. Footpaths provide for a healthy community and provide safety for children going to Scoil Bhríde. They also contribute to the ordered appearance of the village. The stakes along the verge at the school show that community pride only stretches so far. The cycle lanes send out their own positive message to the school going community. If what is now being experienced is as a result of tortuous talks with public bodies then hats off to your persistence. The approach from Arthurstown has had more years to develop. Trees, islands of blooms, divine private gardens and attractive entrances to estates mark this approach road. As a back area the adjudicator was impressed by the appearance of the car park at the Dewdrop Gastro Pub and also by the colourful hanging baskets.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The adjudicator feels that he will never visit Dublin again without dropping in to Kill just to experience this village/town. The appearance of your village, the promotion of the natural potential of the village are an example to

all other towns and villages. It seems a shame to refer to Kill as a town. Nár laga Dia Sibh.