

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill** Ref: **374**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **299**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **02/07/2013**  
**23/07/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	50	39	39
Landscaping	50	43	44
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	28
Litter Control	50	40	39
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	10	10
Tidiness	30	21	21
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	39	39
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>299</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Kill is welcomed to the 2013 TidyTowns Competition. Your well-presented entry form with photographs and helpful map was of great assistance to the adjudicator. Your plan for the village up to 2015 was also welcomed. Your committee of nine with assistance on once off projects is doing good work with the support of local businesses. It is pleasant to see the many seats throughout the village which have been sponsored. Having a committee member as traffic warden, and liaison with the school is beneficial to the committee. Kill has certainly benefitted from the competition with the enhancement to the village that has occurred and as a result the village is now known as an award winning village. Congratulations on the launch of your new website. It will act as a good means of communication. It is through the website that the committee can keep everybody informed about upcoming events and newsletters in an environmentally friendly way.

### The Built Environment:

The roundabout approach depicting hurdle and flat racing which is what the area is noted for was a nice approach to the village. Many fine buildings formed part of the streetscape of this lovely village. The Church and carpark were reached by the cherry blossom walk which must be spectacular in May. Millennium Park is a lovely amenity with some nice landscaping and an Information Board. The house beside the Church with its gothic style windows was admired as were the beautiful floral displays adorning its front. The pumps in the village were well presented. St John's Church was also noted and admired. The Eurospar shop looked well as did The Dew Drop Bar. A nice commemorative stone for Special Olympics was noted in the village. The village shopping complex Claredom fits comfortably with the surrounds and was presented well. The GAA centre, another important amenity, looked good with many pleasant trees. Scoil Bhríde, a modern building with modern facilities for children, has a well-planned garden that certainly compliments this building. The commemorative seat to Patsy Lawlor was noted, it is nice to see - gone but not forgotten. It is also good to note your TidyTowns plaque which gives the community strong motivation to strive forward in the competition. Johnstown roundabout of St Bridges crosses was also admired.

### Landscaping:

Landscaping in Kill is to a high standard. As stated earlier the cherry blossom along the walk to the church is superb, a visit here in the spring would be breath-taking. This area also had some lovely landscaping of

herbaceous plants. The millennium park had some really pleasant areas of landscaping with round circular stone beds of roses. The flower bed with box hedging surround was in need of some attention as some weeds were noted.

Across from the Church, nice beds of begonias and mature trees were noted and admired. The wall surrounding the raised planting of trees and plants made a focal point in the village and looked super. Attractive planting was also noted at St Patrick's Estate with the sundial being enhanced by the surrounding landscaping. The planters through the village added splendid colour and were admired. As one looks down the village the trees and planters provided a very good contrast and are a welcome sight as you progress through the village. The many individual houses that had well-manicured gardens added lovely colour to the streetscape. The cart full of summer planting added an interesting splash of colour.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Kill TidyTowns has made good progress in your contribution to nature and biodiversity. You are commended for the number of detailed surveys carried out that you included with your application. The surveys included trees, plants for birds, plants for bees and butterflies. The results of these surveys play an important role in giving the committee direction in how best to progress in this category.

Creation of the woodland walk which is well signposted using wooden signs is a good amenity to have in the area and helps raise awareness of the wildlife present in Kill. Again well signposted is your wildflower meadow and your wildlife conservation area.

Your bird sanctuary was noticed at your raised bed in the village as were the bat boxes at St John's Church. You have as a committee looked to cater for all wildlife, from creation of nectar patches for bees to your native hedgerows on approach roads.

The stone walls act as a habitat for insects and these will be complimented by your log habitats. At any time leaving corridors for wildlife is important and you have done this to create a habitat for many native animals in the area. The inclusion of the wildlife corridor at the river was noted.

### **Litter Control:**

Kill has a good policy in place on combatting litter. Liaising with the schools and having regular litter picks are all positive ways of addressing any litter problems. While the village does not have a serious litter problem, on the day of adjudication some litter was noted, in particular at the river and some was also noted in the Millennium Park however nothing too major.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

Well done to the school on their Green Flag status and for the comprehensive list on the recycling and waste reducing methods that are part of their Green School Programme. Recycling is an important part of this category, however the core area is to reduce the amount of waste produced in the community.

There are also, the areas of resource management such as water energy and transport initiatives. Take transport as an example. Using public transport, car sharing, cycling or walking where possible can reduce and save energy. Collecting rainwater in water butts can save water. Food waste is another big one. The list is endless but for more ways on how waste could be reduced consult the TidyTown's handbook for more information.

It was welcome to see the composting area in the park with suitable signage, however it is hoped that it will get more use in the future. However this is indeed a good starting point for the community.

### **Tidiness:**

The village was generally tidy. Some small areas need to be addressed. The Millennium Park, a lovely amenity, had some weed growth in the paving which looked untidy. Also a damaged box near the entrance to the park which housed wires was damaged and gave an untidy feel to the area.

Adjacent to the stone for the Special Olympics a rusty sign for accommodation looked bad. In the village weed growth in the pavement at the raised planting area also slightly distracted. The sign at the school crossing was also in need of cleaning. In an area that has an air of tidiness, small blemishes will distract easily.

### **Residential Areas:**

Kill village has a lovely mix of housing which was all superbly presented and all adding to the streetscape of the village. The house beside the Church with its gothic windows and hanging baskets as mentioned previously was well presented. In the village centre the single storey houses with attractive window boxes and neat gardens were also admired. The Gables houses were most attractive as was St Patrick's Park, its surrounding flower beds of roses and herbaceous planting are a credit to this area.

There are many more individual residences throughout the village that were well presented with lovely landscaping, neat gardens, mature trees and abundance of colour.

Well done to all the residents in this category.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The roundabout on the Castlewarden approach is unique and was very much admired. The An Cill in box hedging was also admired. The Welcome to Kill stone was noted and gives a good welcome to the village. The approach roads have well maintained grass verges which give a good first impression of the village. The bridge and its beautiful arches all added impressively to the entrance to the village of Kill.

**General Impression:**

The village was a pleasure to visit. Well done to the committee and supporters in the community that helps you achieve your objectives. You have done good work to enhance the village further and you are wished continued success in the future of the competition.

**Second Round Adjudication:**

This adjudicator was delighted to be visiting Kill on this second round adjudication. We are more than happy to endorse all the positive points made about the town by the first adjudicator and Kill was looking really smart. The church is a wonderful architectural set piece that has been sensitively added to. The purpose of the railings around the nearby green space was lost on this adjudicator. The 'wildflower' meadow (although planting a wildflower meadow is somewhat of a contradiction in terms) and composting areas were admired. The fairy wood had been subject to some littering. The wonderful displays of roses here are excellent while furniture and hard landscaping features are in good shape. A smashed electricity transfer box needs attention. Spectacular arrangements of flowers in pots along the Main Street are some of the best seen this year, well done. The small riverside area is a beautiful spot although the water seems to be subject to serious pollution (evidenced by the large amounts of brown fungus). This would be worth investigating on [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie). Some litter had also gathered in the water along the banks. The birch trees with planting across from the Church of Ireland is another outstanding landscaping feature and perfectly compliments the tall trees and shrubbery in the churchyard. The information point and bin at this location are looking a little worn and need to be refurbished. The Eurospar complex is very well presented, although litter and a scrappy phone box across the road look untidy. Bins further on badly need to be washed. Overall this adjudicator found that landscaping and built presentation were top notch, although litter and some tidiness issues are below the standard that is expected at this level of the contest.