

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildorrery** Ref: **457**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **285**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34
TOTAL MARK	450	285

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a truly excellent submission this year. Your entry form was filled in a detailed but relevant fashion. Your map was nearly perfect for use (the addition of a key on the map sheet itself, would mean the 'nearly' wouldn't apply). The large kids' map is lovely - be sure to keep this safe! The keeping of photographic records as you have done is a real help to the adjudicator (who had never visited before) and puts so many things into context. Please be advised, though: less is tending to be more in terms of materials submitted so please cut back on the less relevant materials in order to limit the chances of more materials being overlooked. Printing double-sided will help, as will reducing photograph sizes.

The adjudicator won't recount all of your details back to you. Suffice it to say that your entry amply demonstrates high levels of organisation and planning. Your ethos is sound and you communicate well. Good luck with the Facebook page. Well done on all of the Ballyhoura awards. You must have a big cupboard to hold all of these. Thank you for the clarity of your presentation, it makes a big difference to the task at hand.

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

Your restoration work on the community office is an excellent project. The project at the old Dairygold site just shows what may be achieved if you have the vision. Several old premises have been nursed to their current state by your residents' careful attention. The national school was spotless on adjudication day. The Green Flag was flying in the sunshine, as was the Activity Flag. The red noticeboard here looks great. O'Sullivan's petrol station is about as well presented as any such establishment yet seen this year. The adjudicator loved the name stone. The Garda Station looked drab by comparison with its surroundings. Some landscape planting would do much here.

What really struck this adjudicator on his inaugural visit to Kildorrery was the consistency of the care devoted to the upkeep of old premises and residences such as that opposite Burke's. The furniture shop should avoid poor quality paper signs in its windows. The shop on the corner should get rid of the Lotto stickers and watch out for faded signage.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The community garden at Oaklawn is superb. This is easily the best example of such a garden that this adjudicator has yet seen. The veggy beds, polytunnel, insect-friendly border-planting and of course, the scarecrow, all make this so pleasant to be in. The fencing is cleverly planted up with grasses. Its hard to believe that this is such a recent development and right next-door to so many of your community, young and old. Well done. The work on the Mallow Road is also very, very good. The information boards here are fascinating. Despite the innumerable

number of old agricultural implements this adjudicator has seen down the years, this is the first time anyone's bothered to explain which is which need what they're for. The history of Cow and Gate and Kildorrery is very interesting too. Stone, thyme, mullein and bumblebees kept the adjudicator company while the signs were read. There is a very even and well-tended evergreen bed on the Mitchelstown Road.

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

Well done on the Wildlife and Heritage Trail. The adjudicator was 'led off' by the information here (as well as your amazing scenery on a very sunny day). The Gates' Meadow is a super little site and you've made great use of ground here. The wildlife information board is excellent - the adjudicator wasn't aware that the red kite was back in Ballyhoura country. That's great. You must also get credit for the bug-friendly planting at the community garden. Rearing and releasing pheasants isn't an activity that will attract points in this category. Although the huge work in habitat maintenance and management that Gun Clubs carry out is acknowledged here. Such organisations are also very important for monitoring the well-being of our countryside.

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

This is thought to be one of the trickier categories of the competition. However, your entry has described some very suitable and relevant initiatives. These include savings of water, soils and organic waste. For further ideas, you could go to the website of the local authority prevention network (LAPN) at <http://toolkit.localprevention.ie/> for community-based tips and information.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The Irish Tree Centre's signage is set into old tar barrels. Surely this can be improved upon. The recycling bins were species-specific on adjudication day. The cycle route signage is partially obscured by a variegated laurel. The community garden will deserve a better quality sign in the future. Really, though, there are few tidiness issues to report. Well done on your top-ranking in the Litter Challenge. It's clear to see that your work in this regard is very thorough.

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

Oaklawn is indeed lovely. The landscaping here is excellent - subtle, well-planned and attractive. A little more strimming is needed at Gort na Sí. Individual private houses show great care and standards of upkeep.

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

The yew hedging at the Irish Tree Centre looks great but please refrain from spraying below this. There is no need. The new road surfaces on the Mitchelstown Road were being greatly appreciated by users, especially cyclists on adjudication day. The picnic area is very, very nice and the adjudicator hopes that it is used. The GAA / Squash Club car-park surfacing is poor. This may be a job for later. The little playground was closed for upkeep on day of visit. The picnic area on the Limerick Road is very good too, although a tiny bit of weed control is needed here. Road surfaces were poorer on the Limerick Road. The heritage and wildlife trail makes a trip here really interesting. In truth, the adjudicator was sorry to leave.