

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinsale** Ref: **181**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **314**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **16/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	46	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	45	45
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>314</b>

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

Kinsale is most welcome to the 2015 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your well-presented application. Your committee of 22 members have good support from the wider community. You engage well with all the relevant agencies and businesses. The local excellence awards winners of 2014 are commended, they included Kinsale Tourist office, Smyths SuperValu and Summercove primary school. The Kinsale Tidy Towns school project 2015 is also welcomed and should offer good support to the committee over many of the categories of the competition. Last year's adjudicator mentioned having a three year plan, this years also reiterates this. A plan is considered part of the application and should be addressed. You have good means of communication through local newspapers. It is also good to note that there is continuing interaction between the Tidy Towns and the schools. Kinsales involvement in the Tidy Town's competition has help to catapult it into a top tourist town. Well done in the tourism town's award of best small town in 2014. It has also given the community a better sense of pride in their town through its achievements.

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

The tourist office set the stakes high for other buildings in its colourful presentation. The Perryville Hotel with its array of flags blowing in the breeze from the sea looked colourful. The stepped rooftops of the houses as you look up from the tourist office gives uniqueness to the area. The Short Quay Street boasts many splendid buildings and a seating area to rest and admire. The Lord Kinsale Bar, Oscar Madison's Bar and Jim Edwards were magical. Market Quay also added to the streetscape with the art gallery displaying many wonderful paintings. The Kinsale Museum added its own charm to the streetscape. The Pound project was visited, a nice point to take a break and read the information in this area, hopefully it will not be too long before another plaque will be added to the wall. The wishing well and planting added colour to this area across from the stone building of The Church of Ireland. The James O'Neill Memorial building brings the visitor up to Friars lodge and the Friary Church, all complimenting the streetscape with their fine structures. The old Presbytery brought so many colours to the streetscape. St John the Baptist Church looked all the better from the developed derelict site across. Desmond Castle also was admired. The milk market was bustling and the Tidy Town's project adjacent was admired. The Blue Havens fresh facade was admired so too was the White House and Kitty O'Shea's pub.

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

The approach roads display many colourful beds and ground planting. Through the streets such as Short Quay lovely seating and landscaping was noted. The tourist office had superb landscaping. The Ship Mast effect on the pier was also admired. Unfortunately some graffiti here distracted. The wildflower planting at Featherbed lane was certainly worth a visit so too was The Spaniard. The planted containers at the Museum complimented this area.

“Worlds End Project” was also visited and the planting here compliments its natural setting. The landscaping at the trident hotel corner was delightful. It is positive to note that a large volume of perennial planting is included in your landscaping. The wildflower planting is also encouraged. The garden of remembrance was also visited. The tidy town’s contribution of erecting directional signage to the garden is commended. This is a superb project of tree planting and commemorative boards and it is encouraging to see groups offering support. The bank area across from SuperValu unfortunately has Japanese Knotweed growing. This is an invasive species and your group should look to address this in conjunction with an expert in this area. Maybe the council could provide some help. Across from the Blue Haven Hotel a number of trees are planted in containers with summer planting. Planting at the base of trees is discouraged as they compete with the roots of the trees for food and water.

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

The wildlife walk at Commonogue Marsh was visited. This project certainly is very unique with the stone pillar depictions of wildlife. The beach was also visited and this area was busy with sun bathers. The walk down to the beach was clean so too was the beach area. Well done on your work keeping this area. Let’s hope its users continue to help you keep this tranquil spot clean. On Pier road the green area with seat in memory of Leon Common was visited. The existing bench here needs painting however and there was also some rusty public signage and a dead tree.

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

The recycling centre on the new road was visited, this is an excellent example of a recycling centre. Your work in this category seems to have moved on a step since last year’s report. There is more work around efficient resource management with the use of rainwater in watering the town’s flowers. Carpooling is also mentioned and this is another saving. Do try and look at reducing waste by working with the hotels and homes on how food waste could be reduced. Look at [stopfoodwaste.ie](http://stopfoodwaste.ie) and they will offer useful tips on how savings can be made. Groups that have participated have reduced waste produced by as much as 50%. The schools should certainly be included in this section of the competition. The Tidy Towns and the wider community should engage with the schools on looking at ways of reducing the amount of waste produced. The schools are commended for their green flag achievements.

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

Well done on your achievements in the County litter challenge. Litter is an on-going task and committees need full support from the wider community to control it. Kinsale is a busy town with a lot of traffic and footfall but you are doing good work on your efforts to keep your town clean. The town was generally tidy; some weed growth however was noted on the steps and gravel area at the back of the fun fair. The unoccupied businesses of SeaView café and Market unfortunately distracts from the area. The wall adjacent to the James O’Neill building needs attention. Some graffiti was noted around the town, mostly on electrical boxes and street furniture, mostly notable at the mast and stone sculptures.

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

The playground is certainly a big undertaking for the Tidy Towns committee to maintain. The playground is a public amenity, are you supported by the local authority in your maintenance of the playground? You are doing an excellent job but a little help goes a long way. Your excellence awards have proved successful in giving recognition to hard work. The subsidised paint scheme is a good way of encouraging residents to maintain the exterior of their homes which in turn improves the overall appearance of the streetscape. There are many attractive houses in Kinsale all adding greatly to the streetscape. The stepped houses really caught the eye.

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

The approach roads with their attractive signage and well maintained verges and landscaping gave a good first impression to the adjudicator. This was continued throughout the streets with good directional signage. One sign on the main street wall however looked shabby. A directional sign to the White House Hotel needs attention. The pier road had some delightful landscaped areas.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Kinsale town was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. The town has many attractions to offer the visitor. The committee are doing superb work maintaining the town to a high standard. You are wished continued success with your work.