

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leixlip** Ref: **376**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **296**
Category: **G** Date(s): **24/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	52	52
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	35
TOTAL MARK	450	291	296

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a most detailed entry. The adjudicator is well aware of how much work must have gone into this so thank you sincerely. It was a little longer than necessary and you are advised to keep your submission a little shorter next year, thanks. The map will have to be addressed. I'm afraid that Map 2 (projects etc.) was of little use, there being far too much on it and the lines impossible to follow. Map 1 was used for navigation though. No need to worry about the binding - the presentation was lovely.

You have 53 years' worth of involvement in Tidy Towns - congratulations! Your group seems solid - well-organised and thorough. Your communications take place over several means and channels. A most pleasing one is that your trailer now recruits for you. Your links with the school are demonstrably good and the adjudicator was impressed with your use of Transition Year volunteers and the horse-naming competition. It was disappointing, though that you chose not to share any of the more risqué entries.

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

The recapping of the wall is a major job done for you. It's great to see the Salmon Leap - a real landmark for your village - open again. The old Guinness sign was admired. The adjudicator has no way of knowing whether or when the bridge had been painted but it is acknowledged here now. Well done on the work on the Mass Steps and the new sign on the covered well. The new O'Riordáin / Hayes plaque made the adjudicator think about those coins and how they were treasured way back then. The junction box painting scheme was admired. Be careful where you put your submission details. The cart and pump for example are better placed in Landscaping and Open Spaces. The former was admired by the adjudicator the latter not so much. A pump thus far out of place doesn't look right, it is felt, although your efforts here are noted. Well done on building a beech from scratch/scrap - it looks classical and indeed functional. Well done on the widespread use of Irish throughout the town and estates in particular.

Ryevale Tavern looks great. However, there is no need for the awfully large sign on the zinc venue adjacent. Sam's takeaway was very clean. The Spar looks really well with its window murals. Murphy's pub looks bright and has a very nice clock. St Mary's Church is a beautiful building. There is space for some interpretation inside the railings here, it is felt. The shopping centre would look much better without the yellow signage. There have been good efforts to conceal the derelict building on Osman Street. Why has this been allowed? Your entry doesn't make reference to it that could be found.

The Bank of Ireland signage is in need of repainting while AIB looks quite well. Other premises looking well were the Crazy Razor and Alvito's. Westside Auctioneers looks poor with a missing sign and a jumble of cables. Sam's

would look better without the banner on the gable end. The library building is very modern and looks good with black planters outside. The GAA grounds looked neat and were litter-free. The Diamond Salon is really a very nice premises.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The Kilmackredock Road horse is a lovely project. The amount of work that must have gone into the planting at the Church car-park is appreciated. Well done on the wildflower gardening and on the removal of litter-catching briars. A busy area such as this will need this kind of facelift. Your newly renamed Guinness Square is a lovely little space. Your upkeep of shrub beds and borders is an ongoing work that is very important.

The planting at the pump was admired. You do have some excellent quality planters. The old Meitheal logo seen for the first time. These were nicely planted, as were the planters on the bridge. You could consider painting the handrail of the riverside access (on northern side of river) and also the wooden planters here with a black primer. The lime trees in the Main Street look very well. There were lots of lovely examples of planting on the Clonee Road and Captain's Hill. The tub planters look well but please refer to the comments of last year's adjudicator in terms of planting in the ground. The Slán planting needs some remedial work or perhaps it should be replaced.

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

Your work in preparing the biodiversity area was noted but there are few details of how this will improve biodiversity. It wasn't abundantly clear from your plan. Well done on your ongoing bat survey work - this is important. Well done also on the creation of new bird boxes - be sure to monitor and maintain them. Keep the bug hotel looking at least a little neat or these things can start to resemble clutter. The information board has very good information. Watch out for faded signage that may need replanting.

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

You've defined your philosophy and approach to this category from the outset. You have lots of initiatives described here and all are valid to a greater or lesser extent. Its great that Confey are now on their third Green Flag. It's very important that 2nd level schools get greener too. The feeding of material to goats and the collection of used coffee grounds are both new to this adjudicator so well done. The rainwater collectors and food waste survey are excellent initiatives too. You should mention the bike-lockers facility at the railway station as a way that car-miles are being saved.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your anti-graffiti efforts. Does the former Town Council worker now work for Kildare County Council or is he a volunteer? You describe numerous areas that have benefited from your attention and the many hours that you describe. Well done on your co-operation with the churches. The anti-litter awareness signs are very good and it is hoped that some people will get the message. The painting of the bollards and railings in your chosen colours does really help. The engagement with national and secondary schools is now essential if we ever want to make litter unfashionable.

The sign at the railway station is probably beyond repair and should be replaced. The litterbin and junction box painting was much admired but watch out for junction boxes in need of attention. There is a broken downspout at Alvino's. Please don't store the big waste bins in front of the GAA grounds. There is a missing sign from a damaged sign pole on Captain's Hill.

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

Thank you for another well-illustrated section of your entry here. Please be careful not to duplicate information such as the bilingual name stones. Well done on your work at Louisa Bridge Apartments and at Ryevale House. Rockingham/Louisa Valley is really well kept. There are some very nice areas of low-key landscaping here. There are lots of native trees on the periphery of some estates like these, including elder, willow and ash. Confey is a very large estate and is very pleasant with its semi-mature trees and well kept green areas. Avondale looked really great with greens and junction boxes painted. New piers were noted at Riverdale but more ivy on the walls here would help.

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

You have made a comprehensive entry in this category and have described well your actions. You go well beyond the traditional boundaries and this is to be applauded. Your collaboration with Maynooth Tidy Towns is an excellent one and an example of the kind of co-operation that Tidy Towns can foster. Well done. The use of planters on bridges is up for debate. These do look good, the adjudicator agrees but please refer to the comments of last year's adjudicator with regard to planters. Your dedicated Tidy Towns signs are novel and were much admired. On the R148 for example. However, the wood of the planter here was broken.

Your attention to your roundabouts is well focussed. There will be times when groups and local authorities disagree or communication falls down. However, after all of your years of involvement, you and Kildare County Council surely understand each other well. Would more colour on the Maynooth Road roundabout help? Buckley's Lane was very pleasant.

The walls at Confey Cemetry need to be painted. The no cycling struck the adjudicator as a strange prohibition. Why is organic waste not in separate bins here? There is a missing speed limit sign on the Clonee Road. There are damaged and dirty signs and sign poles on the Celbridge Road.

Concluding Remarks:

This was this adjudicator's first time assessing your work here in Leixlip and it was so impressive. While you have some areas to address, you are more than up to the task. Well done on your result this year.