

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilbehenny**

Ref: **1251**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **259**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **21/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	31	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
TOTAL MARK	450	253	259

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome Kilbehenny Tidy Towns to the 2015 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Thank you for your entry form, map, photos and work plan. Your committee of 10 members is quite good given the size of your community and you can also call on volunteers. Eight meetings a year plus others as the need arises. Your principal support agencies are Limerick and Cork County Councils, Ballyhoura Development Ltd, RSS and TUS schemes, Department of Social Protection and The Forestry Company. Channels of communication range from newspapers to Facebook. You engage well with your local school. The value of the competition to your community is well set out in your entry form. We note that Kilbehenny Tidy Towns has significant projects planned for the future.

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

The community centre looks well. It is a fine big building and it is understandable why it took up so much of the community's time. At the back there is work to be finished – finishing the painting of the back of the building and surfacing. The memorial garden looks well. There was a bicycle race finishing while the adjudicator was looking around so it was not possible to see the interior or the Small Town Studios work. The old graveyard was visited. The Kilbehenny Girl Guides and Brownies Millennium time capsule 2050 was seen. Excellent initiative. Well done to all involved.

Post office stands out. Window boxes and hanging baskets add colour to this key junction. The old creamery also catches the eye with its green painted milk churns. The work schedule to be done this year according to your work plan had not taken place by adjudication day. Scoil Naisiunta Choill Bheithne 1875 is well presented. School and walls well painted. 1 green flag. Raised wooden beds empty. Grounds well kept. Poly tunnel with lots growing in it. School yard spotless. Galtee Gaels GAA clubhouse is an attractive modern building. In due course it is hoped that the walls and gates will be painted to bring them up to the standard of the clubhouse. Old derelict house on Anglesboro road well camouflaged in line the treatment recommended in the Tidy Towns handbook. Excellent outcome. Church, graveyard and parochial house all well presented. Church is an impressive stone building. Graveyard neat and tidy. Grounds and parochial house gardens well kept. Memorial to Trooper Patrick Mullins noted with respect. Dan Casey's looks well. Flower containers on walls and hanging baskets add colour to this corner. Other items on your list noted for completion this year.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

On the Cahir road the 60km signs are in raised stone beds. Seat clean and flanked by 2 beds. Bi-lingual Kilbehenny name stone on grass verge. Junction with L80001 has a green and white (not red as on your map) village tap in a raised bed. Flower containers on walls and bridge over the Fursion river are eye-catching. The picnic area at

Condon's Corner with its bi-lingual village name stone in a stone alcove was admired. This adjudicator had lunch here in glorious sunshine. A very pleasant amenity area which is well kept. Tables and benches clean and sound. The 4 beds at the M8 bridge were visited. They need attention – weeds. The picnic area at the Mill river bridge has a picnic table under an overhanging tree. Table and benches are covered in sap dripping off the tree and are unusable. The table is also being engulfed by foliage from behind. Is this a riverside walk to somewhere? The 3 tier planter on the Mitchelstown road was almost missed as it was recessed into a hedge. There was no sign of the potatoes in the field marked on your map as the potato garden. That field is directly opposite where this adjudicator had lunch. It is a green, grass field. Your entry form tells us that the potatoes were planted in old fashioned ridges yet the photo you sent shows them being planted on level ground. A puzzle. They were not on the 2015 planting list you sent.

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

Your entry form tells us that of the 17 bird boxes around the village only 3 were used and the users were starlings. That seems unusual. Could Bird Watch Ireland throw any light on this? Well done to the girl guides for planting trees along the Mill River during National Tree Week. The wildlife area at the M8 bridge was visited. Noted that 4 saplings were planted at the old graveyard. The Limerick Buzzing project has been adopted by schools in a number of Tidy Towns areas in Limerick. You could earn more marks in this category with new projects. The Heritage Council web site www.heritagecouncil.ie allows you to download free its publication "Conserving Wildlife in Towns and Villages". We look forward to the publication of the booklet on wildlife on the Mill River.

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

This adjudicator did not notice a composter at Condon's Corner and did not think it would be appropriate to intrude on Fr Kelly's back garden. We look forward to a composter being installed at the community centre. Other projects in this category were mentioned in last year's adjudicator's report – community centre energy and school hens and vegetable. Well done to the newly qualified tour guides for taking part in the Ballyhoura Walking Festival. The recycling area in the community centre car park is spotless – bins washed and area neat and tidy. Some Tidy Towns groups find this category challenging so marks were increased to encourage Tidy Towns groups to submit more projects. A useful web site is www.localprevention.ie/tidy-towns. This site has examples of projects that earned marks for Tidy Towns groups.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done for participating in the An Taisce National Spring Clean and the Team Limerick Clean Up. It will be interesting to compare the number of bags of rubbish collected next year with this year's to see if it is increasing/decreasing. Weed control in kerbs is good. Litter picks are also effective. Some gates were painted green.

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

Kilbehenny has no residential areas or unfinished estates. Kilbehenny is also a straight through village with residences on each side of the road or on side roads. It would be invidious for this adjudicator to single out a residence as the best. It is not that kind of competition. There is a strong community spirit in the village and one manifestation of this is the effort residents put into presenting their residences to a high standard. Some have very well stocked gardens. Residences on the Carrigane road and the Angelsboro road also well presented, some with attractive gardens. Well done to all involved.

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

Approach roads are important in conveying the first impression of a town or village. On the approach from Cahir the 60km signs are in circular raised beds, on wide kerbed verges neatly kept. Good first impression of Kilbehenny except that the 50km signs spell Kilbehenny with only 1 N. On the Mitchelstown approach there are 2 large raised beds on neat verges. Clean direction and speed signs. Good first impression of the village. The sign beside the Mill River bridge is an old black and white village name sign with the old Bord Fáilte logo in a corner. Good first impression. Road surfaces are good. Bridges are sound. Signage is good despite the misspelling of Kilbehenny.

Concluding Remarks:

Again, thank you for your entry in the 2015 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is important to us. We look forward to receiving your entry in the 2016 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition in due course. Thank you in anticipation of it.