

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killoscully** Ref: **525**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **299**
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
TOTAL MARK	450	290	299

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

We are pleased to welcome Killoscully and your dedicated committee of 27 members to the 2015 tidy towns competition. It is great to see that the rate of participation is so high in your village and it seems clear that your enthusiastic committee is the primary reason for this! Your organised approach to the competition is most impressive and you are commended on your strong links with Tipperary County Council, the Leader Partnership, Muintir na Tire and a range of local organisations like the PPN and the KDA. It is also not surprising to read that local businesses such as Ryans Pub, Liffey Mills, Cosgrave Oil, Goosers Restaurant and Cerise Beauty are very supportive of your work. We read with interest about your communication strategy and we would love to hear about your new website in 2016. We are pleased to see that you involve the schools in your work and that you have a youth representative on your committee. However, we would urge you to consider delegating some projects – perhaps in the landscaping, wildlife and waste management categories to the school children. We were also pleased to read that the tidy towns competition has a positive impact on the community and we thank you for your kind comments. You are commended on producing a very comprehensive tidy towns application which was most informative. The map that was supplied could be improved by including labels for all key buildings on it and all approach road destinations. We concur with the adjudicator in 2014 and we would urge you to summarise the supplementary information where possible. We were also somewhat surprised that the tidy towns action plan was not included. Has one been prepared? Please let us know in 2016.

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

This was the first time that the adjudicator had visited Killoscully and it proved to be a very enjoyable experience. We loved the historical buildings comprising the Church with its red sandstone facade, the thatched Pub and the carefully maintained Community Hall – which is an excellent reuse of what appears to be an old national school building. Ryans Pub also looked incredibly well. We very much appreciated the efforts of the committee to draw our attention to the unique features of the village – with nice wooden signage indicating such features as the pump and the loop walk. The route of the mass path appears to take in all of the natural and historical features of Killoscully. The committee is also commended on the many fine projects that they have undertaken for the built environment category in 2015. Aside from the maintenance of the local Community Hall, Church and seating areas, it was noted that signage was replaced (and we liked the new wooden signage), railings were painted at the Brook, the three old milk churns were cleaned and the banding stones from the old Forge were relocated. We were also pleased to read that you tidied up to 2 vacant buildings in the village and maintained the seating areas in the wildlife area. All of these projects have made a positive difference to the appearance of your village.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

This is normally a strong category for your village and 2015 is no exception to this tradition. There are some very impressive landscaping schemes such as the raised bed surrounding the entrance to the Church with its attractive perennial planting in it. The raised planters here also looked well with their colourful combinations of perennials and seasonal flowering plants. The pleasant seating area with its perennial planting opposite the Community Hall also forms a lovely public space. The landscaping at the base of the wildlife signs (across from the milk urns) is incredibly impressive and it achieves a very good diversity of species. The planting at the Brook was also admired and we were delighted to find that this area affords a wonderful view of Keeper Hill. The adjudicator was struck by the considered approach of the committee to your landscaping projects as it appears that the focus appears to be on plants and flowers that can be found in the wild and this helps to emphasise the rural character of your village.

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

We were delighted to read that the Mass Path Walk has been undertaken complete with information signage and there's no doubt that this amenity will be an attraction for residents and visitors alike. Well done also on your work to the Brook and given the variety of wildlife referred to in your application form, we wondered if a wildlife survey could be undertaken for the above? This would be of assistance to the committee when considering future projects and it would also help when choosing plants and trees for your planting schemes. Perhaps the school would like to get involved in a wildlife survey? We note the reference to the wildlife corridor and we wondered whether this was proving effective? We were also most interested to read about the Coypu Swamp rat as a similar (or the same?) was spotted in Rearcross. Well done on the committee have been so vigilant on spotting invasive species and taking prompt action to deal with them.

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

As a total of 50 marks are now allocated this category, it represents an excellent opportunity for your committee to improve your performance in this competition. We are pleased to read that you plan to undertake a waste survey of households in your area in time for 2016 and we look forward to seeing the results of this survey next year. However, you are urged not to restrict the survey to questions about composting. For example, why not include questions on recycling (of glass, paper and cans) in order to ascertain how many households are minimising waste and recycling were possible? This may also help you to answer the question as to whether you need a bottle bank in your village or not. For example, if levels of recycling are low then the bottle bank in the village may help to address this. The results of the survey may also help to pinpoint other worthwhile projects. We were pleased to see that you engage in a number of other projects including segregating waste from your litter pickers, water harvesting and composting. Other ideas for projects under this category can be found in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The committee is commended on its antilitter activities are organised approach to litter and waste collection within the village. This comprehensive approach was evident from adjudication when your village was found to be litter free. This is an excellent result and the committee (and volunteers) should be proud of their efforts. We note your continuing efforts to improve road signage in the village and your contact with Tipperary County Council regarding same. It is agreed that this can be a slow process and we would encourage you to be persistent. Why not discuss the signage and other road maintenance matters which your local elected councillor? One small improvement relates to the untidy headless sign pole that was spotted between the village name stone on the Silvermines road and the 50 kmph signs. A sign should be attached to this pole or else it should be removed.

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

It was noted from your entry form that all houses are regularly maintained and the unoccupied houses adjacent to the Community Hall were power washed and cleaned. We were delighted to find that was indeed the case as the standard of presentation of individual houses and gardens was very high throughout the village. Well done!

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

A very good balance appears to have been struck in Killoscully between a tidy appearance and a natural appearance. This has been achieved by the consistent approach to field gates (all painted black), a consistent approach to sign poles (all painted black) and the use of planting schemes where the emphasis seems to be on wild flowers and plants that are consistent with this rural location. Retaining natural roadside boundaries and natural stone walls has also provided for a very attractive and uniform appearance while the entrance name signage was also admired.

Concluding Remarks:

The visit to Killoscully was a delightful experience and we very much enjoyed seeing the work of a committee working very hard to present its village in the best light possible. Well done and we can't wait to return in 2016 to see what other delightful improvements are in store!