

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kerrykeel** Ref: **1952**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **213**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2016**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	28
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	28
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	28
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	14
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>213</b>

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

Céad míle fáilte roimh Kerrykeel TidyTowns to the 2016 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition for the first time. Is go maire sibh an céad. Your brave initial committee of four members have taken a giant step in promoting your village and hopefully that brave step will be cherished by the following generations of TidyTowns committees. Have no doubt but that your bravery will benefit the community that lives in Kerrykeel and will enrich the environment and surroundings of your village. It appears from your submission that you have been active for some time. You list the agencies with whom you engage. Next year you might write one sentence on how each of these assist your work. You seem to have learned how to communicate with your constituents. Do all of the methods of communication assist your work? Which is most effective? Glad that you engage with the school. Does the school have the Green Flag? A pity that you did not include a copy of the calendar with your submission. It is evident that you have a person with an eye for the occasion in your midst as the photos are a treat. The 'before' and 'after' photos are most effective. Use the photos as a history of your work for future generations. Above all enjoy yourselves. You did not put any entries in some of the categories. We all know that there are activities ongoing in these sections in the village. So keep a diary of them. The simple things are the most important. Thank you for the map which was helpful. Freehand is as effective as any.

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

Arrived into the village and admired the lovely Post Office front. Drove on and discovered another Post Office! Confusion reigned until I took a walk. Well done on your mural. It creates the atmosphere of the village post office from times past. This and the work at the old forge brighten up those buildings and also pay respect to the people who provided wonderful services to Kerrykeel. All of your activities help to enhance the appearance of a village that has suffered from the passage of time. There are buildings and sites that await their next role in present day Kerrykeel. Meanwhile you have two wonderful church buildings with suitably designed and maintained surroundings, a delightful school nestled into its site, fine buildings around the village centre, fine Credit Union building with spacious car park. While one might complain about the amount of clutter around the Village Inn there is a vibrancy to the front and great care has been taken with its painting and presentation.

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

Before anyone takes a spade or hoe in hand one sees that your village has been beautifully landscaped by nature and maybe by your forebears. There are mature trees and thriving hedges all over the village. Your task is to add some seasonal colour to that carpet of green. And already your works are praiseworthy. Hanging baskets on poles show that someone cares and is making an effort. The freshly painted pump and the flowers around it are further evidence of recent work. The seat on the gravelled surface is another indication of flair on the part of someone with

an eye for landscaping opportunity. The area outside the thatched cottage is alive with colour as is the appearance of the cottage itself, the red door and the red timberwork creating a positive visual impact. Make the cottage your street buildings prototype. Out at the pier your boatful of colour indicates what might be the beginnings of themed landscaping. Residents assist in the landscaping with their gardens full of colour. The photos show that your landscaping artists are enthusiastic and the entrance to the town shows that they are knowledgeable also. There are sites you would love to improve on but you will face refusals, resistance and opposition. You will have to be patient in making progress.

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

It is a pity that you have no entry in this section. For next year ye might do a survey of the trees that are such an important element of your environment and biodiversity. Or something in connection with Mulroy Bay. Whatever you do do something, one project would be great. I am awarding some marks because your trees and hedges provide food and shelter for birds and insects, without you raising a finger. You might contact the Heritage Officer for Donegal for prompts.

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

Here again you draw a blank. This category is a challenge for most groups. But the school has Green Flag status for which teachers, pupils and parents deserve great credit. This Green Flag earns you the marks received. Talk to the teacher. Read the suggestions about reducing our carbon footprint that have come from the TidyTowns Unit. It may be possible to recruit someone onto your committee who is interested in these matters. Again one project for next year. And contact the Environment Area Officer in the County Council for a hand.

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

Well done on the works that you are undertaking at present. Tidying and litter gathering is the kind of work that makes fellow residents aware of a TidyTowns group in the village. It is also the work that creates a sense of community among the committee and volunteers. So all projects have a value. The results of the work are not so easily measured as litter seems to drop like leaves off a tree in autumn. In time you will develop a litter awareness programme but for now continue to pick. As regards the tidiness aspect of this category tasks you have completed in clearing sites and reseeding them are practical, identifiable works. The photos are a great help to the adjudicator in this regard. You are well aware of the main challenge to the tidiness of the village so I will desist from the temptation to litany them. Lovely artwork on a back wall as one drives along.

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

It is a pity that you have no entry in this section either. There are wonderful houses throughout the village. Be grateful to the owners that they provide such colour to the street. Then there are fine houses on the approach roads, especially from Milford and to the pier and these provide a vast variety of shrubs and trees reaching down to the roads. The appearance of the estates in the village varies from one to another. So there is much to chew on. There is one estate which provides a standard for all others to aim at, Cuan na Trá.

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

One is made aware of an upcoming village ages before one arrives into Kerrykeel and that is done by the careful maintenance of the road verges. This is also true of the boat area. That standard of maintenance should be replicated on all of the approach roads. There is no need to mow all the way to the ditch. In many cases a width of a lawnmower is sufficient to create definition and at the same time create a corridor for wildlife. First impressions last.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

One hopes that the content of this report is not too daunting and that it does not dishearten your group. You have made a start and remember that Rome ..... Best of luck.