

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilteevan** Ref: **2189**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **266**
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	33
TOTAL MARK	450	249	266

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome Kilteevan to the 2016 tidy towns competition as your involvement is appreciated. We are delighted to read that community participation is high in your village with seven members on your committee and an average of 30 people at your tidy towns events and meetings! This is most impressive and it clearly demonstrates the pride that residents have in your village and their appreciation for the hard work of the committee. The adjudicator was struck by the number of partnerships that your committee has managed to build up with external organisations – particularly as it is only your second year in the competition. Your application form refers to your links with Roscommon County Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife, the Road Safety Authority, the Rural Social Scheme and the Roscommon Leader Partnership. This is to be commended and you are urged to continue to maintain these links in the years ahead. It is also great to see that you have formed links with many other voluntary and community groups that include; An Taisce, the ICA, the Green Fingers Club, the Badminton club, the Graveyard Committee and the Kilteevan Community Development Group Limited. We wondered if you have delegated responsibility for any projects to these clubs? The level of support that you receive from local businesses clearly demonstrates that they consider your projects to be very worthwhile. These businesses include; Supervalu in Roscommon Town, Top Oil, the O'Connor Recycling Centre, the Roscommon People and Roscommon Herald newspapers, the Irish Cooperative Organisation Society and Caseys. Well done also on forming links with the School and the Brothers of Charity. It is understood from your application form that the links with the school are maintained by your Youth Liaison Officer and we are pleased to hear that you are planning to collaborate with the school children as part of the implementation of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This is a great initiative and we look forward to hearing more details about this in 2017. You are also encouraged to ask your Liaison Officer to discuss the projects included in your three-year plan with the school children to see if any of these would be suitable school projects? We consider your communication strategy to be most impressive and it is clear from the level of community participation in your village that is proving to be effective. However, we note that a local newsletter is published every month and we urge you to consider reducing the amount of printed newsletters that you generate each month and move instead to the newsletter in a digital format that can be e-mailed. Although, a digital format would not suit everyone, be sure to ask your membership about which form they would prefer as less printed newsletters means less waste! We would like to congratulate committee on your success in the 2015 pride of place competition and we heartily agree that this award was well deserved! Thank you also for your completed application form and series of maps as it made adjudication a much easier task. Your three-year plan was read with interest and we wish you the best with it. It could be further improved by including projects under each of the tidy towns categories.

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

This is the first time that we had visited Kilteevan and we were very impressed with the range of buildings to be

seen and their standard of presentation. We were very pleased to find that there is already a heritage trail in place and we had a very enjoyable time reading about these structures with interest. The Kiltveevan Community Centre is a wonderful old building which we understand is the site of the original church in your village. It is great to see that this old structure has been adapted and that it remains in good condition and in productive community use in the centre of your village. The natural stone bridge that is adjacent to it also caught our eye while the recently painted Church a little further up, drew positive attention with its neat and tidy appearance. We were delighted to see the craftsmanship of Mattie Murphy and we would like to offer our congratulations on his successful restoration of the dry stone wall in front of the old gate lodge. This is a lovely building of historical design and noting that it has been modified (with the removal of its chimney), we wondered if it is still an active use? It is a shame that Kiltveevan House has been demolished and we wondered if the previous owners (by the name of Mapother) are the family of the former Dublin City Medical Officer who wrote extensively about the slum conditions in Dublin during the 19th Century? The Mass rock is also a lovely heritage feature and we would like to commend the school on its excellent standard of presentation while Paddy Finns Pub also looked particularly well. Well done on providing a stone seat at the cemetery, an information board and seat at Doogarymore and for launching a DVD on the work undertaken to the historical Pioneer Hall (which involved stripping the Ivy and repainting the building). We were most interested to read about your street sculpture, which is based on a vintage photograph of a local man on his bike. This is a lovely idea and while we observed the old bike and its planters at the crossroads, we look forward to seeing the completed piece of public art in the future. We note from your application form that a key project under this category is the provision of Community Park which feature a playground, walking track and community festival garden. The Community Park sounds like an excellent amenity and we look forward to seeing this come to fruition in the years ahead.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There were many fine landscaping projects on view in Kiltveevan on adjudication day. The committee is commended on its considered approach was landscaping schemes as the majority of those observed had a good diversity of perennials, evergreens and seasonal flowering plants to be seen. We particularly liked the natural stone circular landscaping beds in the green area opposite the Community Centre which also accommodated the Grotto. These beds achieved an excellent diversity of species and they are obviously subject to a high standard of maintenance. We also liked the natural stone bed opposite the neatly painted pump which accommodated the bog oak sculpture. The second bog oak sculpture bed which could be spotted opposite the slipway to the River, also impressed and it provided nice colour and interest at this location. Your use of landscaping at Matties drywall is commended as this colourful landscaping helped to enhance this impressive feature. The landscaping at the base of the heritage trail signs throughout the village also helps to draw positive attention to this very worthwhile attraction. We applaud your fine landscaping efforts on the key approach roads to village with the landscaping beds at either side of the junction at the Ballinaboy crossroads looking very well with their mix of plant species and decorative gravel base. The landscaping on the Clonsellan cross roads was similarly impressive. It is also important to mention the wonderful chestnut tree which provides a distinctive feature at the entrance to the village from Knockcroghery. Well done also on replacing the cherry laurel trees at the mass rock with native whitethorn, blackthorn and beech trees and creating the planting boxes that the recently renovated Pioneer Hall. The provision of a seating area on the bog walk and at the wall on the route to the graveyard are acknowledged and you are also commended on planting Hawthorn and Blackthorn on untidy sites that are subject to ownership disputes as a means of improving their appearance. The clearing of the three bridges (Clonsellan, Cloontogher and Cloonmurlu) with the help of tidy towns volunteers, the Roscommon leader partnership and RSS workers is also a very worthy project.

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

Your committee has certainly been busy with projects under this category for 2016. We are delighted to read that your committee has followed the advice of the adjudicator in 2015 by avoiding the use of insecticides and pesticides in your landscaping schemes in favour of organic and manual methods. This approach is highly commendable as weed killers pose a threat to all plants and not just weeds! It is noted that your participation in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan is proving effective as an increasing amount of pollinator friendly flowers have been incorporated into your landscaping schemes and that your focus is not solely on annuals. The information sign and seat are great additions to your beautiful bog and they will help to raise awareness of local biodiversity in your area. Have you considered developing this amenity further by establishing a nature trail or walk here? This could be done with the assistance of the schoolchildren and we would also encourage you to undertake a wildlife survey, which could be used to monitor biodiversity over time. The Inland Waterways Ireland education initiatives with the local School sounds very interesting and it also appears to be a very effective way of raising awareness of the biodiversity associated with the local river. Well done also on organising a talk on bees by a local beekeeper. Consider also hosting a talk on birdlife or wildlife at the bog in Doogarymore - Birdwatch Ireland may be able to provide you with the name of a local volunteer. Finally, we would like to congratulate Mattie Murphy on his single-handed restoration of the dry stone wall!

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

This category has grown in importance in the tidy towns competition and it now accounts for a total of 50 marks – the same as the key categories of built environment, landscaping and wildlife, habitats and natural amenities. As your mark is lower in this category than others, it represents an excellent opportunity for your committee to improve its performance in the competition. You have taken some important steps in the right direction this year. Well done on composting all grass cuttings away from the Kiltveevan river and for engaging in rainwater harvesting. Both of these projects are very effective in reducing the amount of waste that you generate and using resources (such as treated water) more sustainably. Consider also growing or propagating your own plants or harvesting your own

seeds for future landscaping projects – this will enable you to avoid shop bought plants and all their associated packaging and waste. Why not ask the green fingers club for donations of suitable plants for your planting schemes? Reusing waste materials, such as timber, in your tidy towns projects is also an effective way of avoiding the generation of waste. Old timber can be used to construct a host of different items including bird boxes, bat boxes, planters and seating. You are commended on your awareness work under this category with environmental tips been posted on your website each week. Consider undertaking a short survey to see if these tips are being used and if greater numbers of people are reducing the amount of waste that they generate and using resources more sustainably. Well done on your community wide waste recycling event (with all, recycling) and for Greening your family fun day. The work of the national school by engaging in sustainable travel is also acknowledged.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

This is becoming a strong category for your tidy towns committee with the excellent performances in litter control observed this year and in 2015. We are delighted to report that no litter could be seen on the day of adjudication and this is clearly the result of the hard work that you have undertaken on litter patrols and maintaining a tidy village. We were delighted to read that you participated in the national spring clean event and that a total of 80 people in your village attended. It is likely that this event has raised awareness of the need to be vigilant against litter and that greater numbers of people are now ensuring that litter is simply not acceptable in your lovely village. We applaud your innovative initiatives under this category as your strong performance suggests that they are proving to be very effective. Your litter checkpoint (in which traffic was stopped and motorists were asked to empty their unwanted recyclable goods), advertising your litter patrol events with a mannequin upside down in an old discarded oil drum and getting residents to pick litter as they go about their daily business are all excellent ideas and we encourage you to keep them going! It is disappointing that illegal dumping remains an issue, but it is hoped that your vigilance and the determined approach by the Council can stamp this behaviour out. The standard of tidiness observed was also very high with no weed to be seen. All roadsides and public areas and the majority of signage appeared to be well maintained. We concur fully with the comments of the adjudicator in 2015 and we recommend that the field gates should be improved throughout your village as a number of untidy examples were spotted during adjudication. The field gate directly opposite the slipway deserves to be given priority as it is in poor condition and looked untidy. Another old-fashioned field gate opposite the mass rock information sign was also spotted. The children about sign pole at the slipway could do with a wash and the decorative lamp post outside the community centre would also benefit from power washing.

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

The standard of presentation of residential dwellings that could be seen in Kiltreevan was very high and it was clear to the adjudicator that residents have undertaken a great deal of hard work to ensure that their houses appear in the best possible light on adjudication day. This demonstrates that all residents take great pride in the appearance of their lovely village and we urge you to keep up the great work!

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

The hard work of the committee in improving all approach roads into Kiltreevan can clearly be seen on adjudication day. The work undertaken to the Ballinaboy crossroads is particularly impressive with the name stone set in attractive planting on one side of the junction and the (surprisingly large!) painted famine pot surrounded by colourful planting on the other side of the junction. This greatly improves the approach into the village and it looked particularly well during adjudication. The work to the Clonsellan crossroads was also appreciated. Well done for restoring the milk stand at Clooncruff with planted urns as a landscaped feature. The standard of presentation of approach roads was also high with neatly tended verges and litter free roadsides to be seen throughout your village. However, it was noted that the road surface in particular locations (on the road verge outside the church, on the verge at the slipway and at the crossroads themselves) appeared worn and we wondered if this matter has been discussed with Roscommon County Council?

Concluding Remarks:

We would like to congratulate Kiltreevan on an excellent performance for 2016 – which is just your second year in the competition! We note that a number of exciting projects (such as your Community Park) are planned for the coming years and we would love the opportunity to come back and see them! See you all again in 2017.