

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilgarvan**

Ref: **970**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **256**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **24/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	30	31
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>256</b>

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

Kilgarvan is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017, thank you for your 2017 submission; a multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan was not included, so provide one for next year as it is difficult to make significant progress without one; the map should have had the projects for this year colour-coded and cross-referenced to the details in the entry form by number. The committee is small but there is a reasonable number of volunteers available for Tidy Towns Tasks and support from other groups so it appears that community involvement is strong. Links with a number of organisations and business interests with a commitment to environmental and social development in Kilgarvan appear to be well established. Representation on the committee of the youth of the area is excellent. It is good to note the use of social media for circulating Tidy Towns events and news as it reaches a wider audience.

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

The presentation of the church its car parking area and its green open space is impressive; the Community Hall looks well too and the school and its curtilage area are nicely presented. The old cinema premises look cut off from the rest of the built environment standing alone on its bare site, some remedial work might be accomplished for its curtilage area. Buildings in general are well presented in Kilgarvan, a few need to be 'touched up' to their roadside façade. The corner murals with seating, flower display and heritage farm equipment is charming. The gable wall of the O'Suilleabhain premises is the focal point in the streetscape and should always be presented to the highest standard. Kilgarvan is a handsome village with a fine building stock and an interesting street pattern; its streetscape would be very much improved without the overhead service cables. Overall presentation is good and work accomplished on walls, street furniture and more under this heading is noted favourably.

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

The shrubbery on the right-hand side of the road on entering from the Kenmare approach was in full bloom and generates a very good first impression of Kilgarvan. Landscaping at the entrance to the Rockmount Care Centre is superb; nicely landscaped areas feature throughout the village and on approach roads; the shrubbery with the Slan sign is charming and should make a stronger visual impact as it matures. Newly planted species planted behind the traffic barrier on exiting the village are favourably noted too. Well done on the number of container plants strategically placed around the village, the work involved is appreciated. Don't forget to choose native species where feasible and keep up the planting for pollinators. Plant for winter and spring colour and interest also.

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

The entrance to the GAA park is impressive hopefully the area around the clubhouse will be resurfaced in due course. The Wildflower Garden started in 2015 is maturing nicely; well done on the acquisition of a bog oak sculpture. The birdhouses and the bug hotel are excellent initiatives and the Fairy house an imaginative and creative endeavour. A bird identification project might be appropriate especially if the school children can be involved in it. Japanese Knotweed may have been spotted on the roadside past the school, it is important to check this out and consult with experts on its eradication. Stretches of wire and post fencing on the right-hand side of the road coming in from the Kenmare approach could be planted with native hedgerow for visual amenity and wildlife habitats.

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

Murals and container flower displays at the recycling point are charming and all concerned are to be commended. It is good to note that Kilgarvan's householders are enthusiastic about waste prevention, recycling and resource management. The one day a week 'Walk to School' initiative certainly saves on energy; can an estimate be made on how much is saved? There is no mention in your entry form of a water harvesting project, this may be something for the committee to consider for next year. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook and website to get started and log onto [localprevention.ie](http://localprevention.ie) to see what others are doing. Congratulations to the school children and their teachers for the Green Flag status, this is a fine achievement.

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

Litter control is strong in Kilgarvan and weed control is good too, there was no evidence of graffiti or dumping of any kind and the overall appearance was one of tidiness. We note your participation in the KWD annual spring clean-up and the regular weekly litter picks and appreciate the work involved. No doubt litter is segregated for recycling. It may be a useful exercise to analyse it to identify its source, type, frequency and distribution to enable a strategy to be formulated that will prevent litter at source thereby reducing the number of clean-ups necessary. Keep us up-dated on the litter bin problem.

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

The Mountain View residential property is beautifully painted especially to its gable wall which is highly visible on entering Kilgarvan, flower displays here look really well. Emelia Mews is a nicely managed residential development with an attractive entrance featuring stone pillars. Residential areas near the National School look well in all respects and footpath and stone wall boundaries together with painted concrete post fencing gives a nice finished appearance to this entire area. When the housing estate is completed and occupied don't forget to provide a name plate. The boarded-up window and door apertures of the house in the village centre should be painted white pending refurbishment. Well done on work accomplished for vacant dwellings in Kilgarvan. There are some beautifully painted dwellings on the Roughty road.

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

Lovely new name signs at entrances to Kilgarvan were admired. The road surface leading into the town is excellent and well-marked particularly around the church area. Exposed rock lining the approach from Kenmare is visually dramatic and arouses the curiosity for what lies ahead. Through traffic in the village is very heavy and very fast and must present difficulties for the community, it certainly made adjudication difficult. A pedestrian crossing is suggested for the village centre with advance solar powered speed limit signs on approach roads; maybe those with smiley faces for slowing down might be effective. Hopefully you will be successful in getting new footpaths as needed.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Kilgarvan is a most interesting village with an attractive street pattern featuring bends, hills and hollows which generates an ambience of curiosity for the first-time visitor.