

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killorglin**

Ref: **341**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **302**

Category: **D**

Date(s): **21/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	48	48
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	21	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>302</b>

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

Killorglin is very welcome to the 2017 SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition; thank you for your well organised submission with multi-annual plan summary and map; in future years projects identified on the map should be colour-coded in addition to being linked numerically to details in the entry form. Community spirit is strong in Killorglin if the number of volunteers that can be called upon is an indicator. The committee has strong links with a wide network of supporting bodies groups and agencies. It is noted favourably that social media is utilized in communicating Tidy Towns news and events and the Tidy Towns window is also a good method of communication and PR tool. It is laudable that Tidy Towns brings together the work of all stakeholders in Killorglin for the development of the entire community.

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

Killorglin has a handsome stock of two, three and four storey buildings some of which have retained their original architectural features; a number need refurbishment to their roadside facade. Jacks Bakery and Deli was particularly admired for the beauty of its presentation. Only one inappropriate plastic neon sign was noted and there appears to be very few roller security shutters on windows which is good for the streetscape. The Plaza development is a wonderful urban space with water feature, sculpture, landscaping and beautiful contemporary architecture. The church and its grounds on Mill Road look quite graceful in their presentation and the Community Hall was admired as well as the Youth Centre premises on Bridge Street. Saint Michaels Church of Ireland on the Iveragh Road looks wonderful in terms of its architecture as well as its landscaping. Street furniture is attractive and the role of the Men's Shed and the Business community is acknowledged. Congratulations on the 'Diaspora Lady' sculpture particularly in respect of its history as a tree stump! Killorglin's townscape is very good overall; the survey of buildings in need of attention and the planned 'lease and repair' scheme from Kerry CoCo will hopefully have the desired results. The committee might like to consult the publication "How Walkable is Your Town" at [www.universaldesign.ie/builtenvironment/](http://www.universaldesign.ie/builtenvironment/)

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

Killorglin has a fine stock of mature trees many of which look quite stately. Numerous landscaped areas were admired and the hard-landscaped Plaza is particularly impressive for its design and presentation. Container flower displays are colourful and profuse and too numerous to identify individually but they have achieved their goal of enhancing their environs with colour; the placement of trees in mobile units around the town centre is excellent. Well done on the laborious and time coming task of watering them by hand with water taken from the river Laune. Rose displays and sculpture in the 1916 Memorial Garden on the New Line Road is a fitting tribute to those that went before us and to whom we are indebted. Winter and spring planting is acknowledged too as is the careful choice

placement and management of trees, saplings and acorns. The 'Bee Café' is charming and fun.

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

The amenity area on the riverbank at the bridge looked well and the riverbed appeared to be clean. The children's playground behind the Library enjoys good maintenance, is it universally accessible? The number of walks throughout the environs of the town is impressive and the publication on these very useful. The Bee Café (noted above) located in the plaza is an excellent initiative under the National Pollinator Plan. It is good to note the management of invasive species and their management including signage. The wide variety of wildlife awareness activities in Killorglin demonstrates a keen interest and appreciation of our neighbours in the natural world. We look forward to the completion of the Wetlands Town Park, hopefully it will feature universal accessibility

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

The recycling point in the Market car park is well maintained, the flower troughs here had yet to be filled at the time of adjudication however the nicely landscaped area at the entrance was admired. Recycling activities are strong in Killorglin in addition to Reuse. Water harvesting projects and energy saving projects are noted favourably in addition to Greening Events and of course composting. Some thought might now be given to quantifying results in savings and efficiencies achieved. The feedback will allow future realistic goals to be set and will provide the necessary motivation to achieve these. Public awareness heightening projects and workshops are laudable.

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

Litter and weed control is strong in Killorglin and the annual town audit is noteworthy, no doubt it plays a significant role in maintaining Killorglin's streets litter free. Has an analysis of litter been undertaken to determine the source, type, frequency and distribution of the litter to inform a control strategy that may help to prevent the litter at source and reduce the number of clean-ups? Litter segregation is noted, it is interesting to note that segregation reduces the litter for disposal by up to 50%. Some wirescape is evident along the Main Street and Lower Bridge Street elsewhere in the town appears to be wirescape free, we note the on-going ducting of overhead service cables.

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

Encourage residents to pay attention to their roadside boundary walls and refurbish these as necessary in addition to taking responsibility for roadside areas to boundary walls. The Lahern Court development looks well and in fact all estates are nicely presented each in their own way with residents taking responsibility for their own areas. It is an interesting development to have raised beds 'kitchen gardens' behind the KYDS premises on Bridge Street. The on-going negotiations with owners of vacant dwellings throughout the town will hopefully see their redevelopment.

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

The Killarney entrance to Killorglin looks reasonably well however there is a great distance between the nameplate and town! Road verges appear to be left in their natural state which is fine for pollinators; we acknowledge the revised mowing regime. The first roundabout encountered was nicely presented. Good maintenance to the bridge is an excellent introduction to the town centre with its colourful hanging baskets. Parking is well organised and appears adequate for the needs of the town; the car park on the Beaufort Road is nicely surfaced. The entrance from the Glenbeigh Road is impressive with its landscaping which features large stones; the Business Park here is commendable for its presentation. Abseiling the bridge to clear stone splitting weed growth is truly amazing and a 'first' for this adjudicator in thirty-six years of adjudication. Work accomplished for lanes and roundabouts is noted.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Killorglin is a beautiful town with a strong community spirit and many fine amenities; there is a strong sense of 'fun' in its presentation which is a pleasant experience.