

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockanure**

Ref: **1149**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **266**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **12/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	261	266

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

It is a pleasure to welcome Knockanure to the 2017 SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your succinct entry form with map which was clear and easy to follow. Participation in the competition since 1998 is a good track record and we hope you feel it has benefited the community. We note your reliance on personal contact as a means of communicating Tidy Towns news and initiatives which has its merits but urge the committee to try other methods especially social media which can be very effective in attracting new members and volunteers. It is great to know that volunteers are available on request for tasks; this is indicative of a vibrant and generous community spirit. A multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan has not been included with this year's entry, try to submit one for next year.

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

The school its grounds and boundary walls are nicely presented and the church (Corpus Christi) with its hard-landscaped open space looks well also, its status as a listed building (Michael Scott) is noted. Some of the brickwork of the church appears to be a little weather stained together with its surrounding area, sensitive remedial work here should be explored. The Community Centre (old school 1874) enjoys an excellent presentation all round; cognisance is taken of your other heritage features such as the Stations of the Cross, the Last Supper and the Crucifix, a magnificent heritage by any standard and one that is sensitively managed and presented. Flynns gable wall could be refurbished and a wall with some corrugated roof's behind it could be improved also.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Container flower displays at the Church of Corpus Christi together with maturing trees look well. A newly planted area at speed limit signs 'catch the eye' and will continue to do so as they mature; be cognisant of the need to plant for pollinators, check out the National Pollinator Plan. It is important to plant with the needs of wildlife in mind and chose native species where possible. It is also important to plant for year-round colour and interest and to favour permanent over seasonal planting. The management of existing trees should also be prioritized.

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

Roadside verges of approach roads are well-managed, their biodiversity status should be investigated. The GAA sports grounds feature nicely painted boundary walls and good roadside presentation hopefully they will facilitate the committee's request to cordon off a part of the grounds for a wildlife area. Is there a possibility that the undeveloped site in the centre of the village could be scattered with wild flower seed bombs? It is good to note work carried out by residents regarding wild birds, perhaps a species survey of visiting birds could be undertaken and

published with an input from the school children. The sound of the cuckoo must be wonderful, your adjudicator can only imagine!

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

Well done to the pupils of Corpus Christi for their Green Flag status; Their activities regarding litter and waste management and the efficient use of energy and water is laudable and noteworthy too; it is a pleasure to note that they are now working for the fourth Green Flag on the travel theme while at the same time continuing the work of the previous themes. Consult the Tidy Towns website or Handbook for ideas on projects under this heading, the zerowaste.ie website is useful for a global perspective on waste. Rainwater harvesting is an invaluable resource saving particularly when used to water landscaped areas within the village.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is very good: school children are to be applauded for their role in maintaining the village litter free in addition to their own school yard and park. Regular litter patrols and clean-ups are noted from your entry and note has been taken that you feel the problem is diminishing, this is great news! Presumably collected litter is segregated for recycling? It should also be examined to determine its source, type, age location and frequency so that a strategy can be formulated that will prevent litter at source. There is some wirescape in evidence but it is not too visually disruptive.

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

Roadside boundary walls to many properties are nicely painted and the forecourt areas to some premises are nicely surfaced and provide for car parking. Unoccupied dwellings are regrettable, hopefully in the existing climate of a national housing crisis this situation will not pertain for too long. It is nice that weeding is carried out voluntarily to unoccupied premises. We look forward to developments under this heading in the not too distant future.

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

Road surfaces are generally good and clearly marked however the road by the Community Centre is an exception being a bit rough. Entrances to the village look reasonably well and it is good to note that verges are maintained free of rubbish etc., Well done on the management of the linear garden to the north of the village. with the passage of time, diplomacy and goodwill all sites may become available for enhancement.

Concluding Remarks:

Knockanure is a special place with an invaluable heritage which appears to be sensitively managed. We wish the committee well in resolving current problems posed by vacant premises / sites.