

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcoole** Ref: **1121**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **246**
Category: **D** Date(s): **27/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24	24
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	241	246

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Keep Kilcoole Tidy is very welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2017. Well done to your committee on all the work undertaken over the last year, as set out in your Application Form. It is noted that you have 5 Committee Members on your Committee and at least a further 18 local residents who volunteer to carry out Tidy Towns works on an ongoing basis. It is good that you also have assistance from the local GAA Club and Men's Shed to help you with your endeavours and that you have attracted new members this year which augers well for the future. As a relatively new entrant to the Competition and having a growing population, it can be a struggle to deal with the basic infrastructural issues and to develop good Community cohesiveness. Therefore, getting widescale traction for Tidy Towns work in the local Community can be a daunting task. However with a small town the size of Kilcoole and a population of 4000 plus, it should be possible in the future to improve local engagement by using high profile projects or events, engaging directly with Residents Associations and Schools or using more effective means of communication methods - of particular note here is your new Website for Kilcoole (Kilcoole.ie) which is a now very valuable resource providing an interactive 3D Overview map of the town and hinterland, historical information and useful walking maps for the Town and beyond- well done to whoever devised and progressed this particular project. That you have received a grant of €42,000 from the Government for various projects in Kilcoole is also a great achievement and we wish you success in your partnership with Kilcoole Walkways in implementing the proposed projects. It is good to see that you have started to reach out to Residents Associations in the Town such as at Bulford Crescent and Lott Lane to achieve specific tasks and hopefully this type of engagement with other Residents Associations will also attract new members in future years. It is particularly noteworthy that the Tidy Towns Committee has become a central meeting point for other organisations in the Town and this together with your multi-project initiative will give the Tidy Towns Committee a central role in the future economic and sustainable development of the Town. We wish you well in your future endeavours in building further cohesion amongst all those bodies involved in improving the Town of Kilcoole and in expanding your volunteer base which is crucial to protecting what you have and also implementing planned improvement works.

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

The grounds of Saint Anthony's Church were well tended with a good frontage along the road. The hedge on the boundary of Kilcoole Primary school was particularly admired. Road markings in front of the school could be renewed. The Topaz garage looked well with a tidy forecourt. The nearby residential property named Deneville looked very well and is deserving of praise for its presentation. We noted the 1798 Memorial which would benefit from some further enhancement. A section of path flanked by lovely birch trees was walked – some paving slabs are a little uneven here, no doubt they will be repaired soon. The narrow laneway beside Nicky's Village Market was admired which had particularly fabulous views across the Wicklow countryside and to the sea beyond. The boundary treatment and frontage of Puddle Wood House was noted positively. The Post Office premises and the

nearby Molly's pub were well presented. The surfacing of the car park adjacent to Molly's pub would enhance this area. We look forward to the future development of the derelict site at the junction of Main Street and Sea Road. You have done work this year under this category in relation to the fencing, clearance, registering, signing and further development of trails and paths which is commended.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The Ballydonarea Lane Loop walk was visited and it is noted that you have planted a native hedgerow to replace a previous hedgerow removed here. Of some historic interest was the plaque erected along the lane in memory of Sir Albert Hime, former premier of Natal, who gave his name to Himeville in South Africa. This is a wonderful walk through the Kilcoole countryside with an abundance of natural hedgerow vegetation adjoining the path and we are delighted that you are taking a keen interest in the continued maintenance and protection of this and other important walks in the Kilcoole area. It is also noted that you have also carried out planting of native trees at Lott Lane beside new Nursing Home under this category.

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

The old Church of St. Comgall and Cemetery at Lott Lane was visited. This is a heritage property of considerable historic interest and we understand the site dates back to the 12th Century. You have great information available on the history of this site on your new website. It would be good to have some historical information erected at the entrance to the site, for the benefit of visitors and local residents. The recently launched Website for Kilcoole-Kilcoole.ie is a terrific resource providing great information on historic features, natural amenities and walks etc in the Kilcoole area. We wish you well with your plans to add more content to the website site in relation to the beach, wildlife and biodiversity.

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

Some Tidy Towns Committees find it difficult to address the requirements of this category of the competition. Perhaps a good idea for the Committee of Keep Kilcoole Tidy in future years would be to task a sub- group of volunteers, individuals who may have a particular interest in environmental and sustainability issues, to brain-storm so as to devise suitable projects to be carried out in the Kilcoole area under this category. To gain extra marks you could consider from a range of possible environmental initiatives such as encouraging local people to engage in specific sustainable waste, water, energy and transport actions e.g. car- pooling and walk-to-school initiatives, using low carbon vehicles, installing car e-charge points in the town, providing extra cycle parking facilities in the Town and at the beach, the development of further walks, greenways and cycle routes in the area, encouraging the development of small solar farms on appropriate sites, the use of solar panels on roofs, heat exchange units to reduce energy consumption by households/businesses/farms, use of water butts for watering gardens and town plantings incl. window boxes and tubs, organising stop food waste seminars, community gardens, composting and grow your own initiatives etc. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website has good information in relation to the development of Better Energy Communities. You could also speak to the Environmental Officer at the Council on possibly participating in the European Week for Waste Reduction which takes place in November each year. Visit www.ewwr.eu for more information. www.stopfoodwaste.ie is a website that you may also find helpful. The Green Home Programme may also be of interest to your Group (www.greenhome.ie). Grant funding may also be available to provide energy efficiency upgrades for community and commercial facilities. A 'Free Wee Library' project could also be considered at an appropriate site in the Town. It was noted that Kilcoole has a Thrift Shop which facilitates the reuse and recycling of pre-owned goods

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is noted you organize litter picks on the Major streets in Kilcoole which are carried out by 8 Volunteers and 5 sacks of litter are collected each week. Graffiti has been a problem in some areas and you have launched an anti-graffiti campaign to deal with this. The Centra Sign noted in last year's report has been removed, as has the two disused phone-boxes and you have now solved a litter problem at the utility box on the Cooldross Road. Kilcoole was generally found to be tidy and litter free on the day of adjudication and great thanks is due to the volunteers involved in this work on an ongoing basis.

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

Holywell estate was well presented. Some trees here would benefit from the removal of suckers, tree ties and stakes. The avenue of trees at the entrance to Meadowbrook and Beachdale estates impressed. The estates were tidy and generally well presented, as was Beechwood Park. However, some green waste was noted in Meadowbrook estate and the stone planter at the entrance could be removed. The frontage at Sylvan Lawns and Hazelwood Crescent was well presented along the public road. It is noted that you are liaising with Residents Associations such as Bullford Crescent and residents living along Lott Lane regarding graffiti removal and tree planting.

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

You have put a lot of effort this year into the edging of green areas along Newcastle Road and Main Street and you arrange for the removal of weeds from the main roads in Kilcoole 4 times/year. It was noted that the road sign at the entrance to Kilcoole from Delgany was a little dirty and perhaps the Council would assist with cleaning here. It was somewhat disappointing to note the use of herbicides along boundaries on sections of the Sea Road.

Concluding Remarks:

Kilcoole is a growing community and the work of Keep Kilcoole Tidy Tidy Towns will assume greater importance as the years progress. You have gained some new members this year, which will allow you to initiate more projects across the various competition categories. It would be a good idea to concentrate efforts on the low mark categories and seek outside advice and assistance, where this is necessary. It would also be good to try and introduce more planting schemes and features along your Main Street, as this ensures greater visibility of your work and encourages local participation. We wish you well in your endeavours for the coming year.