

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiltegan** Ref: **254**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **294**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	42
TOTAL MARK	450	287	294

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

You are very welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2017. Well done to the Kiltegan Tidy Towns Committee for participating again in this year's Tidy Towns Competition and for all the hard work carried out over the last year. Thank you for the very clear and concise Application Form and the very helpful and artistic Map of the village with alphabetical legend – this was very useful to the adjudicator in finding the various features and works undertaken by Tidy Towns in the village. It is pleasing to note that you meet regularly, are well organised and have 9 Members on your Committee supported by 6-7 individuals who volunteer. You are assisted in your work by a number of local bodies namely, West Wicklow Community Employment CLG, Local Schools, Kiltegan GAA and Camogie, The Hub- Kiltegan Community Company Ltd., Wicklow County Council and SuperValu Baltinglass. You undertake regular litter picks and clean ups and engage annually with the National Spring Clean Campaign in April. Tidy Towns activities are publicised in the local Community through the 'Focus Kiltegan' Newsletter, Tidy Towns Newsletter and Facebook page (which currently has 82 likes), word of mouth and your 'Whatsapp' group. You have forged strong links with local schools and this year have organised an environmental Art/Poetry Competition which had 100 entries. 'The love where you live logo' adopted by Kiltegan Tidy Towns is inspirational - congratulations to the student who designed this! Your 'Adopt a Patch' campaign is an excellent idea and will help further promote a sense of local pride in your lovely village and will focus attention on specific areas using local knowledge and enthusiasm to the best advantage – teamwork is the key here! Engaging with Tidy Towns improves the local environment but also has the knock-on effect of promoting Social Inclusion and greater social contact, thereby improving the quality of life of residents and it is great that your Committee fully recognises this aspect of the Competition.

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

The new tarmacadam surfacing work carried out at the entrance to Hulmewood Castle was admired. This really does show off the impressive entrance gates and gate lodge here to best effect. Kiltegan National School which has a Green Flag, was visited and it was found that the presentation of the frontage and entrance to the school was to a very good standard. The cottages located opposite the school with impressive stone wall front garden boundaries were noted positively. The site of St. Peter's Church was visited and the well - maintained beech hedges along both sides of the access road to the Church were particularly admired. The Church is a building of significant architectural merit and the churchyard was well tended with a fine specimen Irish Yews trees present. However, some shrubby vegetation was noted growing from the roof of the Church near the steeple which will no doubt require early attention. The stone walls on both sides of the Main road leading to the entrance to Hulmewood Castle are a significant feature of Kiltegan Village and it was good to see the natural fern growth on the walls adding interest here. Both Katie Löwes and Talk of the Town Bar looked well on adjudication day. The Hub Community Centre was visited and the recycling clothes bank here was noted. Unfortunately, it was closed on the day of

adjudication. The granite wall at the GAA club was noted – this previously was concealed by vegetation but has now been uncovered. Residential properties located opposite the Hub Community Centre were all well- presented and one property was being painted on the day of adjudication. The painting of the timber fence on the Baltinglass road was noted and looked very well. The new granite seats on the Village Green have made a significant impact here – thanks to all concerned with this project.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The Village Green area was very well presented on the day of adjudication and the standard of grass maintenance and the maintenance of plantings etc. here was excellent. It is great to see that you have been able to use beech hedging to good effect to screen the ESB kiosk situated on the Village Green. Your 3 -Year Plan for the village has a strong emphasis on future tree planting in the village and this is to be commended.

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

It is noted that you have installed bat boxes and bird boxes at the GAA Field and at the Village Green. It is good that you are limiting the use of herbicides in your maintenance work. Herbicide usage along drains and ditches along property frontages on rural roads has become a major problem in recent years. It is unsightly and impacts negatively on wildlife. Thankfully no such problem exists in the Kiltegan area. As mentioned in your adjudication report last year, this category encourages Tidy Towns groups to raise awareness and create an understanding of the natural amenities in your area. Is there a local site or walk that could be further investigated in terms of flora and fauna – perhaps some link ups in this regard may be possible with the owners of Hulmewood Castle? Could you identify further sites for the installation of bee/insect hotels?

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramháiola Inbhuanaíthe:

You have a range of projects in this category, primarily in conjunction with The Hub Community Centre. It is great that you held a Water Festival in May in association with Kiltegan National School to display project work encouraging water conservation. It is noted also that ice cream is being sold at the Hub in wafers to prevent packaging waste-unfortunately your adjudicator missed out on one! The reduce food waste policy employed by the Hub is a good initiative whereby unsold baked goods are sold at reduced prices, thereby minimising food wastage. The book exchange continues to work well. The work of the Hub in conjunction with Supervalu regarding the 'order and collect' system reduces car travel and carbon emissions. The supply of compost to Tidy Towns from a local organic business is a worthwhile collaboration. As you know, this category aims to encourage Tidy Towns groups to move beyond recycling, to reduce the amount of waste produced by the community in the first place, and to best manage the resources used by the Community. Your group might therefore, consider further initiatives under this category for future years such as sustainable energy and transport actions e.g. extending car- pooling and walk to school initiatives, possible 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 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 such as the Hub Community Centre.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Congratulations on winning the anti-dumping PURE Mile Award for your anti-dumping campaign. That you had 30 residents involved in the National Spring Clean event is a great success - well done to all who participated. Your Community Employment workers carry out daily/weekly litter picks. This was evident on the adjudication day as no litter was found in the village. The village core and Village Green area were found to be very neat and tidy on the day of adjudication.

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

Castle Court was visited and the presentation of the open spaces and trees were admired. Consideration could be given to planting hedges along the walls to the rear of this estate to provide a screening effect. Castle Oaks estate was also inspected and the timber fencing at the entrance and the general presentation of open spaces were admired. Consideration might be given to planting along to Boundary wall adjoining the GAA field.

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

All the approach roads into Kiltegan were inspected i.e. Baltinglass Road, Rathdangan Road, High Park Road, Hackettstown Road and road surfaces/markings were generally found to be good and road boundaries, in many cases consisting of high quality random rubble stone walls, impressed. In general, roadside margins were presented to an excellent standard.

Concluding Remarks:

Kiltegan is a small village of considerable character and architectural merit and you are making good progress in the competition under a number of headings. As noted in last year's adjudication report further works could be

progressed under your lower scoring categories of Wildlife and Sustainable Waste, which would enable you to progress to the higher levels in the competition. We hope you found our comments helpful and wish you well with your endeavours for next year.