

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kanturk** Ref: **652**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **262**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **05/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	31	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>262</b>

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

Welcome to Kanturk to the 2017 Tidy Towns competition. Your long list of supporters is very impressive, showing your reach community-wide in your town. Also this past year you have worked well with local schools, it is great to see you reaching out to local students and letting them know about all your hard but rewarding (to all in Kanturk!) work. These students will be the Tidy Towns committee of the future continuing your great work of the present into the years to come – well done on this initiative. The Fairy Door project is also a great idea highlighting litter, biodiversity and water – we look forward to seeing the results of this project next year. Your information window in Corkery's on Strand St is a great idea and was a font of useful information on the visit day adding to the interest for the visitor. You are now in the middle of your three year plan, it highlights how much you have done and are doing with no shortage of interesting ideas - keep up the great work!

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

This was this adjudicator's first visit to Kanturk and it's a wonderful town with so much going for it. It has some beautiful architectural features reflecting its very rich history. Many businesses through the town have clearly gone to great efforts to keep their premises looking well. Many have decorated in sympathy with the architecture and history of their buildings – the ones that stood out were: Lucey's Solicitors; Church St Dentist's; the Credit Union; Cronin's Butchers; McCarthy's Butcher's and Burke's Carpets. Kanturk's industrial buildings are interesting in their own right – they are an integral part of the town. The view across the river from Greenane Park is very interesting with the juxtaposition of the natural landscape right up against the industrial buildings – some of the old warehouses with their angular roof-lines look like they need a bit of loving care and should they get it will provide a great vista across the town's rooftops. Another very different 'roofscape' is the row of clearly very old, steep-roofed cottages on the Banteer Rd leading into Strand St. These could be another very interesting facet of architectural interest in Kanturk if it were possible to conserve them. Kanturk Castle is a stunning and hugely evocative building, the clearance of trees in order to open up the view of the castle from the town looks very well.

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

Kanturk is such a lucky town to have three public parks! All three were being well-used during the adjudication visit. The Parks' riverside situation is wonderful, with the pedestrian bridge linking the Town Park and Canon's Field a particularly wonderful feature – and a great spot for bird-watching, with a heron, grey wagtails, swallows and mallards all putting in appearances. The Town Park clearly needs some attention and the changeover in the body responsible for it is duly noted. This Park has huge potential, particularly with regard to improved planting (with pollinators in mind) and we look forward to its improvement in the future. The sloped wildflower meadow feature in Greenane Park is terrific and a great answer to what can be done with awkward-to-mow slopes. O'Brien St Park is

charming with many beautiful trees – the Oaks and Weeping Willows particularly stand out. The Fairy doors add to the charm! The drain/stream running through the middle needs a little bit of help with the shrubs looking a little tired and the grass slopes hard to mow. Perhaps the shrubs could be removed and the banks planted with native ferns and sedges, this would ease maintenance work and be biodiversity-friendly. The Park's association with the Arts Festival is great and the March Hare looks very much at home there! The Unity Stone is a lovely feature, the heathers look happy and healthy. When the summer annuals are finished in this bed, they could be replaced with herbaceous perennials that are more pollinator-friendly and more cost-effective as they last from year to year – examples include Cranesbill geraniums, Penstemons, Lavender etc. Some of the trees on Strand St need some attention – tree roots need access to oxygen as well as water – a lack of access may be the problem here. The Birches along the central island looked well. The Grotto opposite the recycling centre has been beautifully painted and looks very well.

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

As noted above, the Greenane Park wildflower meadow is terrific and its nearby information sign is very informative. Being so close to the two rivers with their beautiful river meadow vegetation is unusual and a wonderful biodiversity feature in itself. On the day of visit, the grass was in the process of being mowed very tightly, perhaps it could be cut a little less tightly and less regularly leaving the daisies and other wildflowers already present time to flower – they would complement the sown meadow and the river backdrop. Your planned Water Action Day sounded very worthwhile, particularly with Kanturk's (not one but) two important rivers – do make sure to re-schedule this day for another time. The butterfly project sounds great and don't forget the other pollinators – bees, hoverflies and moths! Make sure to download a copy of the Community/Tidy Towns version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan from the National Biodiversity Data Centre – they have lots of ideas and advice including templates for biodiversity-awareness signs.

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

You have several laudable projects in the pipeline with discussions on re-fillable cups and solar powered options for your hall. Your pallet box system for composting grass cuttings is great to see as too many ditches and hedges around Ireland are ruined with rotting heaps of grass. However, ideally, the grass should be composted away from streams or ditches, this is because when grass and other organic matter are decaying, they release a nutrient-rich run-off which will pollute a watercourse if it runs into it, so the Greenane Park grass composting area needs to be moved another 5 or 10m away from the adjacent stream. The Cork Environmental Awareness Officer will have further information on grass-composting systems such as the 'New Zealand Box' system. They do involve a bit of work to get going but once they're up and running and regularly turned they'll be very useful – saving on waste and having to buy compost!

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

Kanturk was very clean and tidy on the day of the visit and appeared to be a very well looked-after town. The 'Tidy Tuesday' project has clearly been very successful.

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

All the residential areas visited were clean and well-kept, however, some areas had used pesticides (weedkiller) all along their grass verges and around trees. This is completely unnecessary and unfortunate as it results in ugly brown lines and is distinctly pollinator-unfriendly! We were delighted with the beautiful terrace of mostly residential Victorian houses on O'Brien St. All have been beautifully painted with many featuring very handsome heritage colours.

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

All the approach roads looked well on the visit day, you have carried out huge work clearing 24 bags of rubbish. The old Community Hall at the back of the old hotel (now a solicitor's) is of great architectural interest with its 1st floor entrance stairway and lovely big windows. With its rich community history and if possible, it would make a wonderful heritage project to restore its outer façade particularly as it's a prominent building on an entrance road to the town.

### **Concluding Remarks:**