

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilworth** Ref: **297**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **313**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2017**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	42	44
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>313</b>

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

Few can equal your mighty record of a 59th submission to Tidy Towns. Congratulations and it was wonderful to be able to see that your enthusiasm for the Tidy Towns competition and all of the benefits it brings to your community has not waned.

We welcome the inclusion of your very comprehensive Kilworth Village Renewal plan 2015-2018. However, it would be much easier to see the progress if there was an update written beside the relevant part. Even hand written notes would be helpful. We adjudicators want to ensure that we give you as much credit as possible for the work that you do.

We welcome your addition of a colourful map. Adding a legend just showing the projects marked on the map would enhance this even more.

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

It must be a great source of pride to your group to see such an improvement to the heritage quality footpath improvements in conjunction with the County Council. It provides a very good start for the redesign of the open space that you say should commence in 2018. For a small village you have lovely wide streets inherited from you were the main Dublin–Cork road .There was no issue with parking on adjudication day.

Don't forget, with any of these projects a picture is worth a thousand words! A small before and after can give much more of a WOW factor as the judges would not always be aware of how the place looked before. This would be especially true should you go ahead with the paint scheme for Main Street after you get the plan from Dulux.

The Garda station is very well maintained and painted.

Very few places of your size would be able to boast community ownership of such fine buildings as the Arts Centre and Market house. It was a lovely touch to have these two buildings as a motif on the gates to the playground. We note that the newly lime plastered Market house is currently rented out. It is great to see a building of its significance still in use even if it is a new use.

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

For such a small village Kilworth boasts some great landscaped open public spaces. The information signs give a great sense of the place. All but the Slí na Sláinte sign were clean.

The small stone bench around the corner the Market house had lovely colourful planting It is a lovely streetscape with its beautiful wall on both sides of Coach Road and further enhanced by colourful planting of shrubs on the far side which are low maintenance.

The garden behind the Children's Playground is a serene, restful place. The sign showing the planning behind it adds real meaning. We are not sure why but none of the water features were on on the day of adjudication but

overall this is still a wonderful place.

The newly renovated sports facility is very well maintained. Well done to all on persevering through the challenges to bring this to fruition.

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

Obviously a huge amount of planning went into the garden mentioned above with the list of plants decided in the design stage.

We noted on your Arts building the sign about Bat Roost and from your report the thriving local bat population is well known. Well done on having planting that supports this. It is always advantageous when the inter-dependence of bio-diversity is recognised.

The lavender plants opposite the Market House and Arts building provide both colour and a valuable resource for pollinators. The wooden stakes that surround this flower bed are very well maintained.

Best of luck to your two young budding entrepreneurs who made your very high quality bird boxes. We spotted a few on our adjudication and they looked well. Maybe in future reports, if possible note how many were inhabited. You mentioned you work with the Kilworth trout anglers on a joint project to ensure Himalayan balsam is kept out of your waterways. This is a very worthy project as Himalayan balsam has rapidly become one of Ireland's most widespread invasive weed species. Maybe the the Anglers would also provide just a few bullet points on the flora and fauna near/in the river in a future submission.

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

Your community garden is a wonderful example of how the aims of the Tidy Towns competition and your own Kilworth community group combine. You mention that your aims you are not just environmental but include social aims. The Kilworth Active Retirement group working in the garden certainly seems to help achieve this. Hopefully this will lead to further take up in the community gardens as there is a lovely area set for it and room for more plots. Maybe over a short period record what volume or weight you manage to compost to show how valuable a resource this is. The apple trees at the end of the gardens should be an even more precious addition in years to come when they mature.

Some letter-box stickers were noted.

Along with many other groups in this competition this area does appear challenging. Don't forget we don't always have start from scratch with ideas. Check out websites such as <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> for a helpful list of projects under various categories.

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

Kilworth is obviously steeped in the Tidy Town tradition of organised clean ups. Very little litter was noted on adjudication day. Moving to the using the new technology of WhatsApp etc. shows how you also know to move with the times. This is a cost effective, time effective and environmentally friendly way of communicating with a larger number of people.

You are fortunate to also have the capable assistance of scheme workers.

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

Once again it was obvious that the Tidy Towns heritage is part of the fabric of your village with some houses very well maintained. Your work with the many residents associations is very productive. There were 2 ladies spotted in Cois Coillte picking up a small amount of litter (as there was not much) on the day of adjudication

There is a nice array of housing estates and one off houses. It was lovely to be greeted by the sign as Gaeilge in Pairc na gCapall.

The playground is comparable to playgrounds in areas of much higher population. The colourful seat around the tree just outside it probably gets a lot of use.

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

We applaud your efforts to not just try and take into account the 50KM speed limit signs but rather use "the natural landmarks that most locals would associate as being gateways to the village".

We noted the lovely sign "Welcome to Kilworth" 1KM away from the main street on the Fermoy road. The approach road is very well maintained with no litter and generally free of weeds on both sides. The old stone wall on both sides certainly provides a lovely gateway.

We followed the new path from the housing estates at Cois Coillte out to Glensheskin wood. It is a wonderful addition. Too many times in Ireland we have some great facilities but in the absence of joined up thinking or even joined up infrastructure it leads to wasted potential. It was a wonderfully simple effective idea to link where people live to a walk able amenity nearby. We also noted some joggers taking advantage of it.

The connecting road from Pound Lane/ Daly's Terrace to the Coach road and the patch to the wood with its new grass verge also adds to the overall accessibility/walk ability/and usability of your village amenities. On adjudication day it had been raining earlier but it was still a well maintained surface to walk on.

The new Anthony's road verges are very well maintained.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Overall Kilworth is a wonderful village with a variety amenities that many from larger towns would envy, from a great playground, sports club, cultural home in the Arts centre, to well maintained colourful public spaces .....and a great Tidy Towns group!

