

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockraha** Ref: **791**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **281**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>281</b>

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

I noted in your 3 year plan that you proudly proclaim that "Knockraha is a small village with a big heart". A wonderful heartfelt motto which demonstrates your continued commitment to Tidy Towns. Well done on your efforts to get new residents to join your clean-ups. Sometimes people just need a nudge in the right direction. We noted from your 3 year plan that your Foroige club has formed a Junior Tidy Towns Group and noted their help with litter campaigns, painting (including the white concrete fence at Kilquane bridge) and planting of containers. This is a wonderful effort. Between those and the pupils of the school being involved in projects, the future looks bright for your Tidy Towns group.

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

The scourge of empty /derelict houses on our environment (both socially and aesthetically) is a problem that doesn't look like it will be solved any time soon. We note your continued committed efforts to try and see if there is any way of solving this in your village.

You mentioned in your report that the old schoolhouse facility had been freshly painted. Imagine my surprise and delight to see the finished product. Not just painted and restored but sporting an amazing array of murals. What a novel idea. I especially loved the mural under the stone plaque showing the foundation of Knockraha national school in 1887 with pupils in the attire of the day. As it is now a childcare facility the kid friendly Disney characters are bright and pleasing.

The long wall brightens up the village.

The Church grounds are generally in good repair. The church bell at the back could become a lovely central feature after a cleaning, although we could see how access to it could prove difficult.

Sometimes small touches can make a big difference. We noted the red door and window on the old forge.

The community centre was looking well decked out in flowers and bunting

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

The new stone name sign keeps a very good first impression on Knockraha It is impressive that you have already organised for a nearby resident to maintain this area. Well done to them.

The bus stop area is very attractive and well maintained.

The Holy Well was well worth a visit. There was a lovely pine smell as we were sitting on one of the two picnic benches beside the stream which was so full of life on the day we were adjudicating. The water seems very clear. There was no litter viewed here. but there was some graffiti on one of the benches however we do realise that not everybody respects property the way that we would like them to.

The Kilquane graveyard is a lovely restful spot. There is very good planting here and it is well maintained.

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

The planting of the ivy at the concrete wall in the field behind the chapel is a great example of how supporting our wildlife also gives community benefits. You mentioned that you were aiming to avoid graffiti and also mentioned the importance of ivy to bees from your conservation talk.

Teaching the children of the importance of bees in our ecology through the "Bee friendly" poster competition is a great idea. Be sure to take a photo of one of the winning entries for next years' submission. Your foxgloves and ferns were especially noted on the way into the village and we commend your appreciation of them.

You mention that weedkiller was used without your knowledge on some of the ditches. We realise that it is not always possible to get everyone on board but it heartening to see you aim high.

The wildlife sign on the way to the Holy Well is very informative.

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

This is a category that so many groups struggle in. Often it is a case of where to start. For extra help and guidance you could check out <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> for a helpful list of projects under various categories.

Well done on your current projects such as the Sustainable Energy Communities information evening. For events such as the composting workshop be sure to include some results which makes it even more impressive.

Congratulations to your school on achieving their 4th Green flag for energy and water conservation.

It is very commendable that you segregate items that can be recycled after litter pickups.

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

The village was almost free of litter on day of adjudication . The "story of litter" sign on the community centre might be getting through. However your regular patrol of volunteers patrolling the village for litter probably are more effective. We all look forward to a time in when they are no longer needed but for now well done to you.

Unfortunately dog fouling was spotted at a few locations including near the church. It is a scourge on most places in Ireland. We noticed your efforts in getting people to sign up to the Paw Pledge. Hopefully this will lead to a change in behaviour

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

The shutters on the blue house Willow Haven opposite the church are a charming feature and work well, as this house is in such a prominent position.

The house beside the walkway to the graveyard was very interesting with the extension made to look like it was part of the original sheds. It was a very interesting modern design.

Radharc na Tuaithe has some lovely houses surrounded by lovely stone walls and an impressive stone entrance sign with nice pink planting which contrasted nicely with the wall. However maybe look more toward lavenders and other pollinator friendly plants for the future.

A row of thin trees in the new housing estate would be a very good investment in the future. Ensure you seek advice as they are also a long term investment.

Chapel hill is a well maintained housing estate with lovely green areas.

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

Your welcome signs are an impressive feature and create a great first impression of the village.

We noted some lovely foxgloves and ferns on the way into Knockraha. The verges were well cut back except for a very small area at the sign.

Beautiful stone wall coming in the Cork side with lovely flowers on the wall

All signs were clean and well kept.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Knockraha is obviously a community that take an interest in the future of their village whether that is taking on projects yourselves or canvassing with local and national authorities to ensure that their voices are heard. We wish you continued successes in your endeavours.