

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kerrykeel** Ref: **1952**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **224**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/08/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	28	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	28	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	28	29
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	14	14
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	32
TOTAL MARK	450	213	224

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

We welcome Kerrykeel to the Tidy Towns Competition of 2017. This is your second year of entry since your organisation was set up in 2014 and we can see that progress had been made on several fronts. The population of Kerrykeel is given at 191, so that places you in the category of villages. We noticed how your village has two spelling versions. However, we certainly found it.

We thank you for your well-illustrated application including the map that highlights sites and projects. You tell us that your committee has three members, who are supported by six volunteers and a further group of three helpers coming from local organisations. Well done to all the team.

You deserve praise for your initiative, including the fine colourful calendar. Thank you for the copy you sent us. We hope that it is well received and that it helps to enlarge your funds. It surely is a lovely present for relations overseas who will enjoy the engaging photographs. We are grateful for the helpful map and your 'before and after' photographs showing seven projects you have finished recently.

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

You have done great work on the old post office. The entrance to the holiday park was well presented. George's fishing tackle shop looked well maintained, as did Kerr's Autos repairs. Well done. The Curlew café enjoys a wonderful view across the fields and out onto the bay.

You have also done good work on the old house near the school. We loved the old Guinness sign outside Saldie's Bar and the windows there also drew our attention.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

We saw a high standard of public housekeeping, and grass cutting was in progress during our visit. One feature that amused us was the nice planting on the fixed bicycle at the school. It's a whimsical attraction for passers-by. We found the seaside picnic area a real delight. The car park is very well-kept and the view out onto Mulroy Bay is absolutely great. It surely ranks very highly amongst the best scenic car park views in County Donegal, or even in Ireland.

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

We note your plan for a shoreline walk. This would increase access to some interesting habitats. It is good that your work can progress with the benefit of the expert's report (a copy of which you sent us). We look forward to see these outcomes emerging over the next years. As well as the marine-related aspects there is scope for a project related to trees as well.

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

You are now engaged in the use of cuttings (hedge and grass) for composting. That is commended as it demonstrates (to the younger people especially) how such waste can be deployed as the benefit. We were very impressed with the use of water butts.

You will be aware that the emphasis now is, more and more, on avoiding the generation of waste, in the first instance. For that reason, we praise your initiatives in encouraging local businesses to reduce waste output. Well done.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A review of the amount of signage on the railings outside the Garda station would be encouraged. You may consider, whenever the pier next needs surfacing, that it would look better with the same (darker limestone) gravel used through-out.

As you will notice, this category carries the highest marks (90). For that reason, and seeing your good start already, you may focus on a project that will draw higher marks over the next few years. That could include the issue of roadside clutter where there are too many notices.

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

You have, quite correctly, identified the attractions of the houses along the approaches to Kerrykeel. Their bright gardens add a lot. Your renovation (and screening) of the old houses is commended.

The thatched cottage is an absolute gem. We admired the fine detached houses we saw along the Milford Road.

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

Kerrykeel has numerous roads in and out of it bordered with bright fuchsia hedges and ivy clad trees. At a few places, the amount of roadside signage could be reduced to remove clutter. The approach road coming from Milford really opens some impressive views. We also found the road markings, carriageway surface and grass verges all in excellent condition there.

The roadside information panel (at the layby) erected by the Council looked well. We particularly commend the work done on the approach from Milford. Removing roadside obstructions has opened up very scenic views. This was our first adjudication visit and we look forward to a return trip. Well done.

Concluding Remarks: