

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Urlingford** Ref: **406**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **268**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/06/2017**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>268</b>

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

Urlingford is welcome back to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition 2017 – we note this is your 26th year in the competition - your participation is important. Thank you for your helpful map including points of interest. Please clearly highlight on your map any new and visible work since your last entry so that we know what we are looking for. We would also ask to try and avoid repetition as there was a lot in your entry. Your committee of ten members has the support of the wider community for specific tasks.

You have been forging good links with outside agencies such as Kilkenny Co Co. The fact that you have the support of several local community groups and businesses is also leading to good results. You are engaging very well with the local school and youth club on Tidy Towns related activities. A wide variety of means are used to communicate your messages including Facebook. We agree with last year's adjudicator with regard to you plan – we would recommend that you set out a few actions under each of the eight categories along with timeframes and group/individual responsible.

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

We note that the community crèche and old folk's home have been painted since last time. Your involvement in the new playground is lauded – this is a wonderful addition for the younger residents. The bright colour scheme at Kavanagh & Sons works well – good landscaping was observed here. The Fire Station is neat in appearance as was Butler's. It is good to see a major renovation job going on at the supermarket on the corner. This will soon have a huge positive impact on the streetscape. Cooke's Footwear traditional shopfront sign was admired. It is encouraging to see such signs preserved. Some other shop signage is not so impressive. We liked the red/yellow colour scheme at the Urlingford Arms. The old community centres looks freshly painted in an attractive colour scheme. We look forward to seeing the completed Physical Fitness Centre next time – an attractive stone façade was observed here. Other exciting developments are the imminent renovations of the Filling Station and the derelict hotel. We look forward to seeing all your positive changes next time.

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

Mature trees, fresh entrance walls and colourful flower pots compliment the church building. The library is an attractive piece of built heritage – surrounded by trees and shrubs. Our only petty complaint is that the view of the lovely building is obstructed. The Garda Station is set back from the roadside in nicely landscaped grounds. Floral displays enhance the presentation of the Credit Union. The school looks well. The information you submitted here was more relevant to other categories so give a little more thought and time to your entry form so we can award you marks accordingly. Your many trees enhance the overall visual appearance of Urlingford as do your nicely landscaped residential areas. A nice area of 'pocket planting' was noted in front of the attractive red/yellow derelict

house. Your ongoing maintenance work is noted.

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

No doubt the lovely Lumper Lane is popular with walkers. Perhaps a native climber could be planted along the concrete wall to soften the effect. We followed the signs and drove out quite a distance looking for the Islands Walk but weren't exactly sure what we were looking for. Please be specific in your entry as to what you wish to be adjudicated in these 'out of town' areas. We couldn't read the text your map in relation to this site. Can you please highlight the river in different colour to your roads to make it easier to follow? What have you been doing to 'maintain' wildlife at Gould Garden? Is this in reference to the 'bird sanctuary' on your map? The all-weather facilities are a welcome addition but would probably be more relevant under 'Built Environment'.

You don't mention the school here. If they have five flags, they would have worked on the 'biodiversity' theme. There are lots of opportunities to co-operate in community awareness events or surveys. Do you have any local person with an interest/knowledge in this area? The lit walkway at the GAA is note. Is this new for this year? The 'Kilkenny Trails' sign was noted at the library.

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

Any local initiatives going on in terms of reducing waste, water, transport or saving energy? The allotments are a wonderful community resource and tick many boxes in relation to this category but you need to tell us (using your own compost, using collected rainwater, avoiding chemicals, growing local (few food miles) etc.). We are delighted to hear that the school has achieved 5 green flags so have been implementing plenty of measures to reduce waste, water, energy and travel. Any examples of messages or surveys they have brought home? Any community or household examples of such measures? Any refurbishment projects would most likely entail energy efficient lighting or perhaps renewable energy for heating purposes (new fitness centre?). Do you try to use rainwater to water summer bedding? Do you compost your grass cuttings? Please tell us. Your Kilkenny Co Environment Awareness Office may also be able to guide you and often runs informative workshops. Please refer to the SWRM guidelines and pick a few more ideas that would work best for Urlingford. Alternatively, visit [www.localprevention.ie/tidytowns](http://www.localprevention.ie/tidytowns) to see what other initiatives are happening around the country. We look forward to hearing of further progress next year.

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

There was very little litter on the day of our visit. Your ongoing litter picks and vigilance is paying dividends. Do you have volunteers involved in these? How does it work? Well done to all residents who play their part in this. Please tell us about any awareness campaigns as there are marks for this. Well done to the Tus workers who make the dog litter boxes. Anti-dog fouling notices were noted – did you do any awareness on this and did it improve the situation? Do you participate in An Taisce's National Spring Clean?

The 'broadband' sign lodged behind the pole on New Road should be removed. The fence opposite Doyle's Funeral Home is quite untidy and no longer functioning. The bench and gate outside Doyle's itself require urgent attention, otherwise the premises looks well. Hanging lights at Butlers Inn give a somewhat cluttered appearance as do the Christmas lights at the Forge Take-Away. The entrance to Kavanagh's depot was a little weedy as was the laneway to the Mill Family Resource Centre.

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

Your ongoing encouragement of residents to paint and maintain properties to a high standard is lauded. Urlingford has a good of street homes and housing estates. Both Assumption Place Mt. Finn estates have nicely maintained green areas. There was minor littering at Mt. Finn however and weeds along kerbs along the entrance road. St. Joseph's looked well – just watch for weeds along kerbs here also. A broken bench should be repaired or removed. Attractive landscaping was admired at the entrance to Emerald Gardens - the name sign is getting a little faded. Togher Rd has some neat residential areas. Trees are maturing nicely at Togher Crescent. Well done to all involved.

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

Approach roads are well maintained. Roads are wide, markings and surfacing is good. The Urlingford roundabout provides a good first impression. On new road Mill Cemetery is beautifully maintained – the lovely old stone walls really enhance this approach. Attractive yellow benches and flower boxes were observed along New Road. Attractive tree planting gives definition. You might consider planting a native hedgerow (such as hawthorn) along the Cork Rd to soften the appearance here. Recent tree planting was noted in this area. Verges area well maintained overall. Be careful that planting in front of your name signs doesn't obstruct the sign itself.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We are glad to year that your involvement in Tidy Towns has led to marked improvements and increased spirit/pride among the wider community. Keep up the good work.