

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killoscully** Ref: **525**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **314**
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	41	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	38
TOTAL MARK	450	304	314

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you, Killoscully, for your completed application form and accompanying map with projects undertaken clearly identified. You are very welcome to the 2017 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. You also provide additional information in the form of a Litter Patrol Map, Killoscully Development Association, 3 Year Action Plan, a list of measures - Contribution to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, various letters, posters and newspaper cuttings. Your participation in this competition for almost twenty years shows your commitment to your village and we were happy to read that you are proud of your achievements to date and have your certificates proudly displayed in the community hall and RC church porch. Killoscully Development Association of 27 includes 2 junior members and you have 5 annual meetings of the full committee and 10 of the sub-committee. You also have help from individuals in the local community – Jim Ryan and John Ryan. Having this help is wonderful as volunteers are essential to your work. You have great support and advice from various groups whom you list in your application form which is excellent. Sponsorship is also forthcoming and you also have a long list of local businesses who have contributed to your committee's activities. Although you have no school in your village you work closely with the school in Ballinahinch. We love your involvement with the school as this fosters long-term benefit for the whole community. Communicate your activities with the wider community through your Facebook page, radio announcements on Tipp FM, newspapers and weekly newsletters and also by posters on the Village Notice Board is excellent. It is excellent to hear that awareness of your village has spread outside the parish due to the work of the Tidy Towns group. Communities have become more aware of their environment and want it to be enhanced. This in turn leads to improvement in social interaction which benefits all.

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

While the village itself is small in size it is a vibrant village with buildings which add greatly to its character. The RC church of the Sacred Heart and nearby Community Centre in the old 1876 school are centrally located. We greatly admired the beautifully painted Ryan's bar with its great floral displays and old signs. While we are generally not in favour of signage as they tend to clutter a building but these, as they are vintage, add to the character of the premises. There are some excellent stone walls and wrought iron gates in and around the village which also add to the area. We see that the community notice board is well used. The simple signs in wood for the various items you highlight are excellent – Lime Kiln, Keeper View, Milk Churns, Mass Path, Village Pump etc. etc. Compliments on the repair of the wall in the graveyard and to the wall at the village pump – both are excellently executed.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

While you may not have large tracts of open green space in your village you have the countryside on your doorstep which you have embraced by creating your looped walk. We loved what you're doing and adding little features such

at as milk churns, banding wheel and famine soup pot are a great idea reminding all of your connection to the farming area. The little signs set in stone tells us the history of the items and is excellent. Is it possible to make a list of the trees on this loop and identify the ones which are good examples of their variety and put on a small discrete name tag? This would be a great educational tool for walkers as many people don't know the names of our trees. The area where the walk goes off road with its carefully constructed steps and timber handrail set in stones is beautifully designed and executed. Congratulations to the stone mason. This walk also combines a Mass Path which was noted on the panel in the village. We also admired the garden in the centre of the village with its seating nestled against a backdrop of shrubs.

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

We are sorry to report that we disturbed a large quantity of birds who were feeding merrily on your bird feeders when we visited the Natural Wildlife Area. But when we left we saw them returning, so all is well. This area with the stream and little bridge is delightful and being part of your looped walk is wonderful. We sat on the seat by the stream and listened to the wildlife sounds all around us. We were happy to see the seat painted black which helps it fade into the background which is correct when we are in the middle of such a wonderful natural area. Have you noticed if your nest boxes have been used? We also admired the discrete sign reminding us that this area is 'Managed for Wildlife'. The artistically produced sign across the road tells us of the Killoscully Wildlife - trim the bush at its base just a little to allow it to be clearly seen. We look forward to seeing the advancement of the projects which you listed for undertaking in next year's application.

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

We loved the idea of your looped walk and while we didn't walk it all we did a little just to get the feel. The parsley, chives, etc are growing very well beside the 1916 memorial plaque. Having a member of your group attend the Midwest Sustainable Energy Communities Showcase in Birdhill was excellent. Is Killoscully a member of the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities? We were happy to see that your Christmas cards were given to 'Busy Hands'. What a great idea of Ryan's bar to give the water bottles to the church for holy water. These and other initiatives which you have listed show that as a community you are embarking on Sustainable Waste and Resource Management.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We think your idea of a litter control map is interesting for a small community however we visit the full village within the confines of the map so this area too must be patrolled. But saying this we can report that your village was clean when we visited and litter free.

We caution that as the signs for the Banding Stone and Famine Soup Pot are 'on the flat' they will get dirty and will need to be cleaned regularly. The Mass Path is a little overgrown and needs to be trimmed back as soon as it is legally permitted to do so.

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

The houses in and around the village are a mix of single and two storey with many attached to farm yards reminding us of this rural community. All were very beautifully presented some having been recently painted. Those with gardens had neatly cut lawns and some had beautiful floral and shrubs displays. Boundary walls and fences also looked pleasant with insect life enjoying the gaps in the natural stone walls.

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

The roadside hedges were neatly trimmed from all sides giving a great view of the road as we entered the village. The canopy of trees from the Newport side are a beautiful entrance to the area. We loved the village names in stone on the approach roads but caution on the planting as it is hiding these beautiful signs. We greatly admired the posts on which the road signage is mounted – well done to Tipperary Co. Co.? We see the old poles on Google street view so we were very happy to see these new heritage ones.

Concluding Remarks:

We loved to see that you have a great mix of ages in your TidyTown committee as was shown by the photos you submitted. Having a variety of ages brings a community together and fosters a spirit of pride of place which is recognised by this competition.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to your village and compliment you on your hard but dedicated work. Thank you for participating in the SuperValu TidyTown 2017 competition.