

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildorrery** Ref: **457**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **319**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	50	41	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	44	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	38
TOTAL MARK	450	310	319

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your entry form and accompanying map and your outline three-year plan showing the areas of focus - maintenance, recruitment, and awareness. Your committee of nine has an additional twenty volunteers whom you call upon to help with various projects as needed. There is a great level of volunteerism in the village and you list of 14 different associations/committees which exist. We see that you get help from Rockmills Group Ltd., Cork Co Co, Centra Kildorrey, Thornhills Optician, Sheehan's, Walsh's and Ollie's. It is vital to communicate your activities and projects with the wider community and we commend your use of Facebook, the Community Development Website, a monthly newsletter, the parish newsletter and the community notice board. Putting photos and write-ups of your activities in the press gets your news to an even wider audience. We were delighted to read that you have a Junior Tidy Towns group with a member of your committee working closely with them. Working with the local scout group is also commendable. We see through your work the village has been awarded many accolades over the years with the most recent being the Muintir Na Tire Pride in our Community 2017 when you won the Healthy Village Award. We encourage you to keep up your good work.

A little advice on filling up the form and producing the map(s). In the application form, please number the projects as new N1, N2, N3..., maintained M1, M2, M3 ..., and Future Projects FP1, FP2, FP3 and then put these numbers on the map(s) so that the adjudicator can locate the projects and see your hard work.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

Your village has mix of very fine vernacular single and two-storey buildings which gives your village its character. The dominate buildings are the RC Saint Bartholomew's Church with its decorative façade including the castellated front porch, the recently renovated Tourist Information Office/ Thatch and Thyme, Kildorrey National School and added to this is the recently renovated Creamery Building. You have some very historic shopfronts which we admired including those of Murphy, E. Burke, Shehan's Food Store, Castle Gale House, Duane etc. We see that many others along Farahy Road, the Fermoy Road and Main Street have removed the shop names which is a pity as these were historic and showed the range of shops which existed locally. Perhaps they could be convinced to put back the old signage? We loved the A. Monaghan three storey building with its 1886 date picked out beautifully in white paint on the keystone over the archway. We see that there are some great wide archways giving access to the rear of some of the main street properties and these are quite special on your streetscape. We loved the poem The Famous Kildorrey Town ... and the pope giving you his blessing. Very apt for this year! The stone needs to be washed carefully – just use washing-up liquid and water and a soft brush. We were delighted to see that you have a Kildorrey Heritage and Wildlife Trail and we read about the agricultural machinery you have on display, kindly donated by Una and Jack O'Brien who had restored them – the grubber, the scuffler, the chill plough, the drill plough and the turnip seeder. There is a great collection of photos from the old Cow and Gate factory with one

being very old. Have you a date around which this was taken? We loved the imposing water tower which represents the better-quality living standards which Ireland experienced in the '40s and 50's. The development of the Creamery Yard has certainly been a very large project for you and now that it is finished, all the hard work is duly rewarded by its wonderful appearance. We were delighted to see that the Creamery building is used for community events. We admired the flowerbed in the corner of the car park with the cart and milk churns. The cross in the wall giving access for the church grounds into the car park is absolutely beautiful as too are the two Grottos – the one in the church and the one on the Fermoy Road. Both beautifully maintained.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The very fine Village Park on the Fermoy road is a huge asset and the footpath all around makes it a wonderful exercise route for the whole community. The grass was being cut with a grass mulching machine when we visited which we were delighted to see. We admired the hillocks, the willow planting, the picnic benches etc. etc. which exist in this excellent addition to the community. Having lighting is an added bonus as the park can be used in winter for those who want to walk in a safe location. You have a number of stone planting beds which were full of well-tended plants and colourful flowers. The raised bed in the centre of the village at the post office is eye-catching. The rose bed along the Mallow entrance road was very attractive and in full flower when we visited. You also have positioned planters full of colourful flowers at strategic locations around the village giving maximum effect and drama for which you are commended. We admired the beautiful weeping willow in the school grounds. The trees which have been planted along the main street looked healthy and are maturing nicely and in time will add greatly to the streetscape of Kildorrey. Some of them need some pruning at the bases and along the trunks. We compliment O'Sullivan's Topaz garage on the planting beds to the front of their premises which add to the entrance to the village. We loved the new planting beds along the Fermoy Road beside the school and playground and across the road along the Village Park wall which has a great variety of colourful shrubs and perennial flowers. We commend you on leaving the earth between the plants and flowers rather than covering it with gravel. While this is more work for you keeping the beds weed free it is also more attractive. We admired the location of the seat in the old well-kept graveyard which we imagine is well used as people sit and reflect.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

The Kildorrey Heritage and Wildlife Trail has some very beautiful photos of the wildlife in your area. We learnt that St. Molagga, who built a monastery in Balbriggan in the 6th century, was Ireland's first beekeeper! You have great number of old and new natural stone walls in your area which are a habitat for a variety of insects. In addition, your hedgerows and trees provide nesting and roosting places for birds. The old graveyard with the church in ruins is also known to attract wildlife. We loved the viewing area on the Mitchelstown Road overlooking Scart Ringforts and the wide expanse of countryside. Gates Meadow is a wonderful area for habitats and we see that this was a project undertaken by Kildorrey Youth Club in 2012. We are delighted to see that they still take ownership of this area and carry out the necessary maintenance. Congratulations on winning the Local Authority Pollinator Award in 2016 and with the new planting beds on the Fermoy Road we feel you are a high contender for this award either this year or next. Herb beds are a great source of food for our pollinators and we commend you for creating herb beds in the school grounds. You mentioned that bird boxes were made and installed but you failed to let us know where. Mark the locations on a map next year. Were there any of the boxes used by visiting birds? Let us know next year.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

We noticed the rainwater harvesting project in the centre of the town and at the Community Centre and commend you for these. We visited the Kildorrey Community Garden and spent some time walking around it. We loved the 'Great Give Away' – 'Pick 'em and Keep 'em', and we are sure many do and are very grateful for them! The raised beds were full of vegetables with some ripe for harvesting. The marrows, grapes and tomatoes were all doing very well in the polytunnel.

We greatly admired the composting project and saw that you take paper and cardboard waste from Thatch and Thyme and sawdust from Walsh's sawmills in addition to food waste from the members. How many are involved in this project? Is it only residents from Oaklawn? We see that you intend to compost grass from the village park but we thought the grass mower had a mulcher? We advise on mulching the grass rather than removing it, so that as the grass clippings break down they release potassium, nitrogen and phosphorous back into the soil. We see that many groups in the village are involved in recycling items and holding fund-raising events to sell these which gives the items a second lease of life. Personally, we're not in favour of using old tyres as planters but confining them to the school yard is acceptable. Old tyres should be recycled into new products as is done by a few companies in Ireland. Congratulations of having Kildorrey Cottage Market every fortnight in the Creamery Yard. There are many other ways to advance in this category and we suggest that you examine the website <http://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Sustainable-Waste-and-Resource-Management.pdf> which may give you some ideas for your community. Also contact the Environmental Officer in Tipperary Co Co who will tell you about events/ talks which you could attend to learn more about Sustainability – doing more with less.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was virtually litter free so your hard work with your litter pick up is successful and you and the volunteers are to be commended. There was however quite a lot of weed growth in gravel areas and in some of the planting beds. We suggest that you ask the volunteers to bring a hoe with them when they're doing the litter pick as a few minutes work with a hoe would solve this problem for you. We were delighted to see that you retain 'earth' in your planting beds rather than covering them up with gravel which we seen in many other communities and which is, in our opinion, an unsuitable material for planting beds. There was also weed growth around the flowers to the rear of

the green space on the Mallow entrance road. We suggest that the gravel is removed and grass is planted here as this can then be cut with the rest of the green space. We suggest you paint 'no dogs allowed' on the footpath inside all the entrances to the Village Park and then remove the sign(s) which detracts from the area. Perhaps paint it along the path at maybe one or two places to remind the community that dogs aren't welcome. You could also paint 'clean up after your dog' on the footpaths where dog fouling is a problem. We have seen this in other communities and have been told it works better than signage on poles.

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

It is very obvious to the visitor to your village that home owners work very hard on the upkeep of their properties and those along the main streets are a credit to the occupants. Many of these had colourful window boxes and hanging baskets which gave extra colour and movement to the streetscape. Other residents had located colourful planters beside their doorways and these too gave great vibrancy to the street. We loved the beautifully maintained thatch house on the Mitchelstown Road and the owner is to be complemented on its presentation. In addition to the well-kept houses on the main streets and approach roads there are some housing estates around the village. The green space in Oaklawn was beautiful and we admired the trees and planting beds. The individual houses were beautifully maintained and had great displays of colourful flowers in their gardens. The work to Hillcrest Estate is wonderful and the area looks very presentable. Equally Bearna Drive with its tree lined entrance looked well with the open space neatly cut and planting beds neat and tidy.

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

The main N73 approach roads to the village are very appealing with neatly cut grass margins and rows of semi mature trees lining the entrances. The approach road from Mallow has an area with seats set back from the road from which there is a great view across the landscape to the south. We admired the painted agricultural machinery and milk churns showing your connection with your rural roots. The trees to the rear set off this space and the planting beds had an array of plants and flowers. We caution you that there is enough in this space now and don't be tempted to add more as it will become cluttered and lose its appeal. It was great to see that a footpath extends from the town out to this area so that residents can come and sit and admire the view. The new planting beds on both sides of the Fermoy Road were admired and when these mature there will be a spectacular display of colour along this entrance to the village. We also commend you on using year round colour in your planting beds.

Concluding Remarks:

We were delighted to visit your village and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as we wandered around the streets, roads and back-lanes taking in the sights. We noticed that you won the Cork County Litter Challenge in 2014 and the Pollinator Award in 2016 ... time for another win?

You have a great many other projects and activities planned for the future and we wish you well as you advance with these. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2018 competition and we look forward to seeing you again next year.