

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkea** Ref: **372**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **275**
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	36	37
Streetscape & Public Places	50	35	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	35	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	24	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	11	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
TOTAL MARK	450	270	275

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kilkea Cill Cathaigh chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. The village of Kilkea is welcomed to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2018. Thank you for your application form, map and photographs in this your 40th plus year entering the competition. You meet as a group twice every 6 months to advance particular projects in your village. Your Committee comprises 4 members and 2 other local residents who volunteer from time to time. You engage with a range of local organisations from whom you receive support and advice, as necessary. Kilkea is a small village and therefore, you can actually sometimes communicate in person with the local residents which is an advantage or alternatively through your village Facebook Page. It is good to read that the involvement of Kilkea over the years in the competition has lead to local residents having more pride in the presentation of their gardens. This is certainly confirmed as one strolls around the village.

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

The central area of the village in Kilkea is beautifully presented with attractive stone walls, majestic trees and wonderful heritage properties. Kilkea National School was visited and the mosaic crest under the school name-sign and the general presentation of the school grounds we greatly admired. A number of trees beside the entrance to the school have curiously had their tops removed and look rather unsightly. In the long term it would be better to replace these trees with more suitable specimens. Kilkea Church is a magnificent building nestled in a wonderful sylvan setting. The Churchyard grounds are excellently maintained as befits the memory of all those interred there. The old school house property was very well presented with flower boxes installed along the beautiful stone wall frontage. The water pump is well landscaped but could do with re-painting. The memorial granite seat with it's poignant quotation was admired. The entrance to Kilkea Castle impressed with its avenue of stately poplar trees, attractive piers, gates and gate lodge. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time to explore the Castle grounds on this occasion.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The right balance has been struck in Kilkea in relation to the amount of colourful floral displays provided in the village on the basis that beauty needs little adornment. The standard of maintenance of margins in the central part of the village is good and no doubt this is enhanced at springtime with drifts of daffodils. A particular feature of Kilkea is the prominence of groups of tall Aspen trees, which are particularly striking when the leaves are seen flickering in a light breeze.

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

The has been serious engagement by your Committee in conjunction with the local national school under this category in relation to some school - based activities this year, such as the installation of the bug hotel in the school grounds, holding an eco-safari for schoolchildren in the locality, erecting bird and bat boxes, and holding a tree enquiry walk with Paddy Madden etc. Kilkea is fortunate to have wonderful wildlife habitats close at hand and it is good that the scope of your activities under this category are being widened to include a further examination of the importance of these habitats in the area e.g. the woodland situated along the banks of the river Greese near the bridge comes to mind.

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

The 'Park and Stride' project is very worthwhile in helping to create an awareness amongst schoolchildren and parents of the pressing energy and resource issues facing our world today and by reducing school car journeys, this can have very positive environmental and health impacts. The Tidy Towns Poster Competition on respecting local heritage and the wood turning workshop are positive initiatives to get schoolchildren interested in their environment and the work of skilled craftsmen using natural materials to create items of beauty and value. The water butt connected to the downpipe at the school to aid water conservation was noted and the school is wished well with it's Green Flag application for Biodiversity. A small community herb or vegetable garden might be worth considering as a project for next year.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Kilkea is a very tidy village with an absence of litter and with well - presented boundaries and grass margins. One assumes that the main source of any litter that might be found in Kilkea is probably from passing traffic. Road signage is generally clean although the Kilkea tourist sign does need cleaning. It is good to know the children are getting involved in the bi-annual clean ups as shown in the attached photographs. Your job-bridge workers also contribute to the cleanliness and tidiness of the village.

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

Castlewood Estate is superbly presented with an entrance framed by a beech hedge and traditional - style black railings. It is good to note that all residential areas are taking a keen interest in improving their own homes and the surrounding areas. The cottages lower Kilkea were admired particular in relation to their efforts to enhance their water pump. The front gardens of the cottages at Upper Kilkea located along the road running to the side of the Castle grounds were enjoyed for their wonderfully presented front gardens and stone walls along the road. It was good to see one of the properties here is currently undergoing restoration work.

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

Road resurfacing works were taking place on the day of adjudication along the Castledermot Road. The bridge over the river Greese on the Castledermot road is a wonderful structure with it's five beautiful arches and stone parapets, best viewed from the riverbank. Your committee fully recognises the considerable heritage value of this important asset within the built heritage of Kilkea and the recently completed repair works to the bridge, expertly undertaken, are testament to this.

Concluding Remarks:

Kilkea is an intrinsically attractive village and you continue to maintain it's important features to a very good standard throughout. Keep up the good work.