

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill** Ref: **374**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **329**
Category: **D** Date(s): **27/06/2017**
03/08/2018

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	46	47
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	46	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	41	42
TOTAL MARK	450	320	329

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kill An Chill chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Kill is very welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2018. Thank you for your application form and comprehensive submission together with appendices and photographs highlighting the works undertaken by your Committee over the last year. The Kill Tidy Towns 5 -Year Plan is an impressive document as it sets out clear actions to be undertaken within specific timescales during the plan period with the overall aim to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kill, whilst maintaining the heritage and character of the Town. Your Action Plan for the current year as set out in Appendix 2 sets out clear targets for the completion of new projects and the maintenance of existing/ongoing projects – this is a very good approach to incrementally improve your standing in the competition. The hand drawn map included with your application was very clear showing all the points of interest and was helpful in the adjudication of your town. Specific projects you have identified this year which required particular effort include the Rowan Walk, Dara Walk, new stone wall at Hartwell Road and the book recycling projects. You communicate well with the local Community in relation to your activities and work closely in partnership with Kildare County Council, local businesses, Resident's Associations and schools. The adjudicator was particularly impressed with the content and presentation of the Tidy Towns Newsletter enclosed with your application- well done to all concerned.

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

The streetscape of Kill is very attractive and is characterised by well-maintained residential properties, neat and tidy roadside margins with trees, significant floral displays and distinctive landmark and heritage buildings comprising the two churches which are set back from the road. The Eurospar premises is well presented. However, the car park to the rear was a little 'weedy' requiring some care and maintenance. The installation of hedge or other planting along the perimeter walls would assist in presentation here. The Kill Information sign at the church is a very good guide for visitors but would benefit from some cleaning. The presentation of the Saplings School building is superb. The newly created Rowan Walk was visited and the work undertaken here has been transformative and the achievement of the Committee is to be applauded. The finish on the new gravel footpath with metal edging is of a high quality and new plantings are establishing well despite the severe drought, thanks to the constant care and maintenance by Kill Tidy Towns. The Scoil Bríde National School was visited and was generally found to be presented to a high standard. However the appearance of the capping on the perimeter wall would benefit from painting. The surface of the school yard also needs to be upgraded as the Tarmacadam appears to be disintegrating. The galvanised pedestrian guardrails at the school and at the church could be painted black as this would enhance the appearance of the area. The Old House licensed premises was adorned with colourful floral displays which enhanced the streetscape. Many residential properties were also adorned with attractive floral displays. Business premises of particular note were Molly's Barber Shop and Kildare Tooling Services. The newly

constructed stone wall and landscaped margin at the commencement of Hartwell Road was visited and again the significant work carried out here by the Tidy Towns Committee has been transformative in this area. Well done to all concerned with this project including the project sponsor Mr. Andy Birchall

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The colourful well-tended floral displays and shrub/tree plantings which catch the eye along the Main Street in Kill are a significant feature which attract visitors to stop and explore. The standard of presentation of these plantings is superb. Well done. It was particularly heartening to see a Kill Tidy Towns member diligently watering the plantings, a difficult task at this time due to the severe drought conditions. The planting and treatment of the old water pump near the Public Park was admired and the natural stone boundary wall enhances the frontage of the Park at this location. There is an ESB substation in the vicinity here which could be screened using new hedge planting or alternately painted to improve its appearance. It was noted that some capping stones were missing from the wall at the rear of the church car park. The 'dead hedge' and composting area at the rear of the Public Park was noted together with the new signs identifying the trees in this area as part of the Kill Park Tree Trail. In general terms the standard of grass and footpath maintenance in the Park could be improved and we would recommend additional herbaceous perennial planting beds here to enhance the appearance of the park – these do not require intensive maintenance. The Avenue containing unusual Locust trees at the entrance to the park was admired.

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

The Dara Walk and Cherry Tree Walk along the N7 boundary were visited. The Tidy Towns Committee has achieved great things in completing this project. The installation of appropriate rustic signage was admired and the newly planted trees along the Dara Walk are establishing well. The wild vegetation present in this area has become a haven for wildlife. The Cherry Walk must surely be a magnificent spectacle when the trees are in full bloom in late spring. The new gravel path could perhaps be extended further out towards the public road, provided the necessary safety measures are put in place. The little stream known as the Kill River which adjoins the Public Park was enjoyed and it was a delight to see the wonderfully constructed arches of the stone bridge and the areas of natural vegetation growing alongside of the stream whose waters appear to be of pristine quality. The planting beds created to attract Bees, Butterflies, Moths and Bats along the Main Road were greatly enjoyed. Your Committee is to be commended for the work undertaken in completing the Biodiversity Map and Audit within the grounds of St. Johns Church.

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

You have undertaken two book recycling projects in February and April of this year which fits well into the re-use of materials element of this category. A total of 68 trees have also been planted as a contribution to fulfilling your Climate Change obligations. It was a good idea to promote the Green Home Energy Survey as part of your Newsletter as this encourages residents to think about energy efficiency measures in the home. Some further items for your Committee to consider under this category might be the development of a local car-pooling and park and ride facility, promoting the use of low carbon vehicles, pursuing the installation of a e-car charge point(s) in the village and improving cycle parking facilities. The further promotion of grant aid for the installation of wall and attic insulation on older building stock could be included in your next Newsletter. The greater use of solar panels on roofs for water heating and heat exchange units to reduce energy consumption by households/businesses are also worthwhile initiatives to consider. The greater use of water butts and gutter storage tanks to assist the watering of private gardens and floral displays during the Summer months might also be further encouraged. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website has good information in relation to the development of Better Energy Communities. The recycling area at the rear of the Church was found to be clean and tidy and the roundabout planting scheme significantly improved the presentation of this area.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There was a general absence of litter in the Town of Kill on the day of adjudication. The presentation of margins, footpaths along the main road was to a high standard. Signs were generally clean and there was an absence of clutter or inappropriate commercial or other signage. Your regular litter picks, annual clean ups and awareness raising with the general public are now bearing fruit.

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

All approach roads in Kill are presented to a high standard with roadside margins kept neat and tidy and areas of wildflower meadows allowed to flourish where this is appropriate. Significant tree planting has been carried out over the years on the approaches to Kill and these are now making a major visual impact and improve the driving experience for road users. Road signs are clean and well maintained. It is good that you are continuing with your policy on non-use of herbicides on approaches to the Town and it is noted that you have purchased a new mulcher this year which will assist with grass maintenance. Be mindful of the need to minimise the presence of physical obstacles located in grassed areas as this greatly impedes routine maintenance operations.

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

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Concluding Remarks:

Kill is an oasis of tranquility and beauty which is all the more pleasing when one considers its close proximity to the busy M7 Motorway. Your Committee has achieved much this year and your plans for future years are both ambitious and achievable. You are wished every success in your future endeavours.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure to visit Kill for 2nd round adjudication and to note that the standard is as high as ever. Trees and hedgerows provide a calming and welcoming effect after the hustle and bustle of the M7. Your committee has been paying attention to detail in effectively highlighting the best of what Kill has to offer. The old stone bridge is one such example. The nicely landscaped area around the bottle banks and pedestrian overpass is another. Businesses are well maintained, including Eurospar and the fresh Dew Drop Inn. The small shopping complex by the pharmacy appears a little barren in comparison, nonetheless it is neat. Lovely pockets of landscaping along the roadsides blend in well with the surrounding streetscape and are further enhanced by troughs of flowers in key areas along Main St. On the whole the village is very clean, although there were a few areas of minor littering – cans at the rear of the Euro Spar car park and food packaging on the nearby footpath by the bus stop. We would urge you to continue your awareness campaign in this regard. The standard of residential areas is most impressive, particularly the entrances to various housing estates. St. Patrick's Park must get a special mention and we congratulate residents here on their Pride of Place achievements in 2017.

Key buildings such as the schools and churches are well maintained as is the small park adjacent to the church. It was lovely to see so many people out walking and plenty of children on bicycles- the village would really benefit from one or two pedestrian crossings to enable safe commuting across the busy road. We admired the new wall and planting on the Hartwell Rd and the new Rowan Walk along Main St. The simple timber signs are fitting. Removing the leylandii trees is a major undertaking – well done. Your native tree planting programme bodes well for the future enhancement of the village as well as its biodiversity. Signs highlighting your 'butterfly-friendly' planting further raises awareness among your residents. We are delighted to hear that you have joined the newly-formed North Kildare Biodiversity Group and look forward to hearing of future projects in conjunction with them. We would urge you to continue your efforts to come up with practical ways that Kill residents can cut down on waste, energy, water and travel. Johnstown Rd is well-maintained but not overly manicured. Your efforts to continually improve Kill and to create a more sustainable community has garnered the support of the wider community. Well done to all involved and we wish you well with future projects.