

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmead** Ref: **375**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **305**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	54	55
Streetscape & Public Places	50	36	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	45	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	33	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	35
TOTAL MARK	450	303	305

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kilmead chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Kilmead Tidy Towns is very welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2018. Thank you for your comprehensive submission which included some photographs showing features and works undertaken over the last year. The document submitted was very easy to read and the green list of projects within each category was very helpful to the adjudicator in judging your village. The maps provided including the village map, general area map and map showing the area around the Moat of Ardscoil were also very beneficial to the judging process. However, perhaps in future these maps could be amalgamated into one overall A3 Size map with all current projects and places of interest numbered and shown as a legend on the map and also referenced in the Application submission. You have 4 members on your Committee meeting monthly with a further 15 approx. non-committee members who volunteer for various works. It is good to note that members of the Tidy Towns Committee are deeply rooted in the Community and are involved in a range of other local organisations. In addition, there are other agencies and businesses which support your work. You are active on social media including Facebook and Twitter and communicate with the general public through various means including public notices, newspapers, newsletters etc. Engagement with local schools is through the Green Flag Committee of Kilmead National School and through nature conservation projects undertaken by the students and their involvement with community clean ups etc. Kilmead has a long and interesting history dating back many centuries and one feels this is a story yet to be told and it would be very beneficial to focus on the heritage aspect of the Competition in the coming years.

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

You are making good progress regarding the provision and extension of footpaths and the implementation of roads resurfacing/remarking works in the village. The newly painted concrete post and rail fence opposite the Church was admired. The Church car park is very well presented with perimeter walls painted white. The floral displays on the school building at Scoil Íde Naofa were greatly enjoyed and enhance this area. The school playground and frontage along the road was beautifully presented. The graveyard with its avenue of trees and stone surround planters and roses located to the front looked very well. The cemetery sign at the entrance could be replaced. The standard of maintenance of individual graves was excellent. A heap of spoil located near the old shed could be removed as it creates an untidy corner here. The St. Ita's Church building is the major landmark in Kilmead and is superbly presented and maintained. The mediaeval Fitzgerald Graveyard with its interesting circular walled enclosure was visited. Unfortunately, the signpost for the graveyard was pointing in wrong direction and the entrance was nearly missed. The historic importance of this graveyard is well recognized and every effort should be made to ensure it is conserved and maintained to the highest possible standard. In this regard it would be worth researching the gravestones on the site and providing some discreet and well-designed interpretative signage on site, for the visitor

to enjoy. Similar works have been successfully undertaken at the old graveyard in Celbridge and at Moone High Cross. Further repair and improvement works are needed to the graveyard entrance and access path, the steps up to the graveyard site and the perimeter wall. The historic tombs have also suffered damage and require urgent repair works. The OPW and National Monuments Section should be consulted prior to any works being carried out on this site. Grant Aid may be available for these works.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The planting schemes carried out at various locations in Kilmead make a significant contribution to the attractively presented streetscape of the village. The stone surround flowerbed located opposite the Church with a mature sycamore tree underplanted with perennials and annual bedding plants, really enhances this area. The large poplar trees located behind white fence are an imposing landscape feature in village but in the longer term they may become a problem in relation to root activity and the impact of winter storms etc. There is also a line of Leyland Cypress trees along the footpath and roadside boundary as one approaches the site of the Mediaeval graveyard. These trees lack visual interest and wildlife value and the recommendation here would be to remove them and replace them with a suitable hedgerow, using native species. The area around the old water pump and Kilmead namestone looked very well.

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

The Moat of Ardscurr which consists of the remains of an Anglo-Norman Motte and Bailey planted with magnificent mature trees and woodland is a wonderful feature of the Kilmead landscape. At the car park, the overhead barrier has deteriorated in condition and could be replaced. The wildlife area was particularly enjoyed – perhaps the signage here needs to be updated also? The general maintenance of the amenity area around the Moat of Ardscurr is excellent. This is a very important heritage asset for the village of Kilmead and could be developed to become an even more important tourist amenity in the area. The tyre swing on one of the trees was a source of great enjoyment for local children. The connection of the site to the Gordon Bennett race is also noteworthy and the memorial here is of great interest to the visitor. It is good to read that you are planning to erect signage at the Moat of Ardscurr amenity area detailing the wildlife, flora and fauna which can be experienced on the site.

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

Well done to Kilmead National School who have their own ‘energy police’ to turn off lights and appliances, thus saving energy in the school. The school also has a composting facility and is very active in the area of recycling batteries etc. The activities of the school Board of Management in relation to improving energy conservation through attic and wall insulation measures is to be commended. Your Community recycling facility appears to be a great success. Well done to St Laurence’s GAA/Community Centre for hosting this facility. Your grass cutting operations using new mulching machines is reducing organic waste. The Community Transport Service seems to be operating well and is convenient to local residents and is cutting down on unnecessary car journeys and the resultant CO2 emissions. The importance of the mobile library service to the social and cultural life of the village cannot be overestimated.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Littering and tidiness was not found to be a major problem in Kilmead Village and environs, although some signage would benefit from cleaning/renewal. The cul-de-sac sign opposite the Church could be cleaned or replaced. The Wildlife Sanctuary and Newline Nature Walk signage would benefit from renewal and the pole could be straightened here. The New Line Grove namestone is also in need of some repair work. You are very active in relation to litter picking in the immediate Kilmead village area and at the Moat of Ardscurr. The new bilingual signage installed on the old concrete litter bins has enhanced the presentation of these bins. Your National Spring Clean 2018 appears to have been a great success with many bags of litter collected and these were removed and later segregated by Kildare County Council – well done to all concerned with this worthwhile event.

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

You have been in correspondence with Kildare County Council regarding various improvement works considered necessary within housing estates in the village. You have also established a close working relationship with Residents Associations in all 4 housing estates in the village and also have contacts with individual householders in the locality. Moat View was visited and perhaps the removal of the large number of timber bollards around the open spaces here should be considered, as these require ongoing maintenance and are probably not necessary at this point. The memorial planting on the open space near the Mediaeval graveyard is a fitting tribute to those who have passed away. However, these features require significant ongoing maintenance to look well. Perhaps it would be better to relocate this memorial planting scheme closer to the entrance to the estate, where it is more prominent and can be more easily maintained. St Ita’s Park is a well-presented estate with good trees and open space areas. The wooden fence along road is in need of some repair and maintenance. New Line Grove has an attractive entrance to the estate with good trees and centrally located shrubbery. Road surfaces in the estate are in need of upgrading works. Cluain Ard estate has generous areas of open space but some additional tree planting is needed in this estate.

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

You have been in contact with the Irish Heart Foundation regarding your plans to develop a Slí na Sláinte route in Kilmead village - we wish you well with your proposals in this regard. It is good that you encourage residents to take

a responsible attitude towards cutting hedgerows and remind landowners of the 1st March deadline for hedge-cutting operations to protect nesting birds. You are maintaining roadside margins in a responsible manner with an uncut strip reserved to provide a suitable wildlife corridor. The welcome signs to the village are well presented. The site of old weighbridge was also well presented - this is an interesting feature very worthy of highlighting.

Concluding Remarks:

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Kilmead is a very attractive village with a significant natural and built heritage which your Committee fully recognises. This important heritage is worthy of appropriate enhancement, conservation and protection and we wish you well in your future endeavours in this regard.