

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmeague** Ref: **300**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **236**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/07/2018**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	38	39
Streetscape & Public Places	50	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	30	30
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	17	18
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	44	45
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	25	26
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>236</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kilmeague Cill Mhaodhóg chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Kilmeague Tidy Towns is very welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition 2018, your 4th year entering the Competition. Thank you for your application form and hand-drawn maps. The maps provided were very clear and provided good information on the main features in the village and the new works carried out by Kilmeague Tidy Towns over the last year. This was important as it helped the adjudicator during the visit and assisted greatly in the adjudication process – thank you for that. You have a loyal Committee of 8 people with 6 Volunteers who assist with your work programmes. You receive good Community Support and are also assisted by a wide range of large and small Commercial Enterprises including local shops and Montessori schools. Close links are maintained with the local school and Scouts through the School Principal and Scout Group Leader. Communication with the general public is achieved through the holding of Public Meetings, Parish Newsletter and KFM Radio. Have you thought about setting up a Facebook Page – this can be a useful way to get your message out to a wider audience? Text alerts are also useful for contacting committee members and volunteers regarding ongoing works and meetings etc. It is heartening to note that after a relatively short time being involved in the Competition, the local Community are getting more involved in your work and are taking greater pride in the village.

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

Kilmeague is an attractive village largely because it has retained its traditional building form and streetscape pattern. The Church of Ireland Church is a prominent landmark building which adds significant character to the centre of the village and the old graveyard and grounds here were well maintained and presented. In general, the commercial and residential premises looked well and added significant character to the streetscape of Kilmeague. Ali's Little Learners was particularly noteworthy in this regard. Window stickers on shopfronts generally detract from the character of traditional villages and this was the case at Cill Dara Betting Shop and the Gala convenience store. The Coffey Family butchers looked particularly well. It was wondered whether the unsightly overhead power lines could be dealt with in the future as part of other engineering works carried out in the village – this may help to reduce the cost of same. Some of the properties located in the village core do require painting and freshening up. Particularly noteworthy along the frontage of the houses on the Main Village Hill was the strip of cobbled footpath which remains largely intact. This is a wonderful heritage feature of the village which should be protected and extended where possible. Some maintenance works are however, required here.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

It is noted that you have plans to level the existing grass bank opposite the shops following previous storm damage

and removal of trees at this location. Have you considered the possibility of acquiring a portion of the field behind the bank for the purpose of developing a small village park for Kilmeague? Instead of removing the grass bank and the deep tree roots located here, a low retaining stone wall could be built along the road to the front of the bank, which would further add character to the village. The new planter features at the bus stop and Church on the Main Village Hill were inspected and it was somewhat disappointing to note that a portion of these had been concreted over, presumably for ease of maintenance. In the future it would be good to see the concrete removed and the flower tubs replaced with a suitable herbaceous pollinator-friendly planting scheme.

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

Arrangements have been made to purchase a selection of Bird Boxes for erecting on trees around the village and along approach roads. Have you considered the erection of swift boxes at various locations and maybe at the school, as this bird species is now on the endangered list. Wild Kildare can provide advice and assistance on this. Are there any streams locally which you could adopt and perhaps carry out an aquatic wildlife survey. Natural field hedgerows are common in the area and provide important habitats for wildlife and where feasible, these should be allowed to develop naturally as much as possible, subject to sight-lines and road safety requirements. An unmown strip at the base of hedgerows is important for wildlife conservation. Are there any sites in Kilmeague suitable for developing a wildflower meadow, pollinator-friendly planting, woodland or naturalised bulb planting? A suitable and manageable project along these lines, could be initiated in conjunction with the local school.

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

You are continuing to segregate waste for further recycling at Timahoe Depot- well done. There are a range of other possible projects which could be progressed in the future and which could gain you marks under this category such as the development of a Community Garden for growing herbs, fruit and vegetables and this could also serve as an educational resource. Alternatively, a community composting facility could be developed on a suitable site. Other possible projects to consider for next year include the promotion of the use of low carbon electric vehicles, pursuing the installation of an electric car charge point in the village or a car-pooling initiative. The further promotion of grant aid for the installation of wall and attic insulation on older building stock, the greater use of solar panels on roofs and heat exchange units to reduce energy consumption by households/businesses, are worthwhile initiatives to consider -grants are available for these works. The installation of water butts for the watering of flower boxes and tubs and private gardens during the Summer period is a good water conservation measure. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website has good information in relation to the development of Better Energy Communities.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

It is heartening to note that you had a fantastic local turnout for your National Spring Clean in the village which was supported by Kildare County Council. Your continued daily litter patrols of the village carried out by your Tús workers seem to be working well as there was a general absence of litter in the central part of the village on the day of adjudication. The installation of an additional 3 new litter bins on top of the four already installed also helps in your ongoing efforts to control litter here. It is important to keep all signs in the village and along approach roads very clean and well-presented and every effort should be made to ensure these are not be obscured by vegetation which can sometimes arise during the growing season.

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

You are continuing to liaise with all the housing estates in Kilmeague in relation to the maintenance of their estates, the provision of flower beds and regular grass cutting operations etc. The estates also get involved with the Christmas festivities including the village Christmas Tree and installation of festive lighting schemes. Have you considered running a 'Tidy Estates Competition' which can be a good way to maintain and improve standards. At Oak Lawns estate the presentation of the namestone and entrance into the estate, which is enhanced by good tree planting, was particularly admired. Similarly, the entrance to Allen Manor is enhanced by an attractive namestone and landscaping scheme and the installation of a new bin was noted here. Residential properties in the central part of the village are generally presented to a high standard.

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

On the day of adjudication, the major drainage works referred to in your application were in full swing, creating some traffic and access restrictions along the Allen Road. Road surfaces on the approaches to the village are in need of some improvement, including re-surfacing and marking. It is presumed that this work will be undertaken as soon as the major drainage works on these roads are completed. The idea proposed for the reconstruction and restoration of the two old water wells, located on the approach roads to protect and conserve the built heritage of the village is commendable and we await further developments here with interest. The new 'Welcome to Kilmeague' signs provide a wonderful first impression to visitors on entering the village- well done to all concerned with this project.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

You have achieved a lot within a short time period since entering the Competition and are attracting greater support locally. We wish you well with your future endeavours.