

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killasmeeestia**

Ref: **1215**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **291**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **21/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	37	38
Streetscape & Public Places	50	38	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	35	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
TOTAL MARK	450	286	291

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Killasmeeestia (Coill A Smaoistigh) chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais.

Welcome back to the Tidy Towns competition. We notice you had a slight decrease on your committee this year from 10 to 8, but many much larger areas would be happen with this level of core workers. The commitment of those on your committee and from the wider area remains as strong as ever. Your work seems very central to the work of the community, including such work as supporting local funeral parking and also the graveyard maintenance. We look forward to your future plans to incorporate a Junior Tidy Towns committee. From the work we have seen done by your community we envisage this to be a very fruitful partnership.

The adjudicator in 2017 highlighted the importance of having a three year plan. We appreciate that there is a lot of work going into being involved in the tidy town's competition and we want to assure you that this need not be an onerous task. For 2019 if you just have an A4 page with the three years 2019, 2020 and 2021 and put a few bullet points under each of these years highlighting what you hope to achieve. This is all that would be necessary. Even if you don't achieve the results you are hoping for Tidy Towns does give you credit for working towards the goal. Photos from your planting, painting, strimming, hedge trimming and all the other activities, demonstrate to those that are not involved in the community the huge amount of work that is done by the volunteers. It is important also that fun is emphasised within the work of tidy towns. Putting up these posts on your Facebook page showing the community evenings is a great way that you achieve this.

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

The child care facility was an array of colour. The beautiful mixed coloured fence was very inventive, but not as resourceful as the multi-coloured tyres. This was a great way to re-use these. We noticed some were being used as planter boxes.

Your proposed new structure for the grass area beside the community hall should create a great focal point for your community. While you do not envisage that the roof will be thatched, in order to ensure a greater use of this structure having a roof is a great idea.

Your local church, parochial house and graveyard hold dominant places in your built environment. They are obviously well tended and cared for.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The village pump is given rightly pride of place. The information plaque was bright and clean.

The seating areas beside the stone well looked well on a well cut grass verge.

While the Roses look very well any future planting here would be more beneficial also be pollinator friendly. You are

living in a beautiful unspoiled scenic area and wild flowers and native plants would be more in keeping with this as well as been lower maintenance. Pollinator friendly perennials have the added benefit of generally being more cost effective. They have a potential life span of 10-12 years is properly maintained. Small amount of annual replacement to supplement as well to complement.

Thank you for acting on last year's adjudicators suggestion to remove flower boxes from beside the rails. Your grass cutting program keeps the place in good order particularly in the community field.

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

Killasmestia has an abundance of on wildlife on its doorstep. We saw some beautiful open spaces lit up with natural wildflowers. The three areas to look at here for the future are; Education, Conservation and Celebration. You appear to be doing these three.

Education: We were impressed with the many posts that you put up on your tidy towns group page, especially the scenes of activity for the annual sprucing up ahead of the graveyard mass on June 2nd.

We were particularly impressed to see the post showing a reminder of what is seen in the hedges in the area. Sometimes close-up photos are needed in order to fully appreciate the beauty that is in nature. The pictures with the butterflies were particularly wonderful. A real celebration of the natural beauty within your community. It was not surprising to see the David Attenborough post on your Facebook page showing the importance of bees. If bees were to disappear from the face of the Earth humans would just have four years left to live.

Your Bird poster was kept clean. We hope it continues to attract attention.

Conservation: Your areas left wild especially on the approach roads were noted. Beside the wildflower meadow in the school ox daisies were growing naturally out of the dry stone wall.

We looked with interest at your reference to two staff members of Dunamase Bee Keeping association visited your bee hotel. We would love to know what expert advice they provided in order to make your village more pollinator friendly. The importance of the need for pollination cannot be over emphasised and any tips that you find and are willing to share in your report that others may also use them is a sure way of gaining extra marks.

Celebration: We noted with joy and new initiative that we hadn't yet seen. "We need your help to look for ladybirds surely this is an excellent way to get your younger tidy towns members involved. We look forward to seeing the results of this next year

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

Reusing the grass clippings from the graveyard maintenance and road verges to create compost is a great saving on going to landfill.

On the day of adjudication pupils from the primary school or spotted bringing recycled bins into the shed behind the school. Tidy Towns would be very interested to know what the recycling policy is within the National School and what are the savings that were made here.

The water butts were seen in place and there were two watering cans nearby indicating that they are well used. Do these provide sufficient use for the school garden?

You mentioned your help with the school garden. The gardens are a great way to use compost from the school, and to help reduce with food waste. Children who participate generally get more of respect for foods.

The area of Sustainability is one that groups are still trying to get to grips with. You might get some handy tips <http://www.epa.ie/begreen/> and on the Tidy Towns website.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Under the category litter control please ensure that you refer to all projects that you were involved in, for example the hazard household hazardous waste collection.

We note that litter is collected every second day. It is unfortunate in the village of your size that this is necessary and we commend your work in this area, as the village was looking clean and tidy. Well done to all involved.

The amount of rubbish you collected from the approach roads unfortunately highlights the problem that many villages have in Ireland of fly tipping.

Your No Poster policy is still operating to great effect

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

Pride in your community obviously extends to pride in individual houses. The parochial house is a credit to your committee.

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

The "Welcome to Killasmestia" sign is kept in very good repair.

The weeding the approach roads in an organic manner using a salt and water solution is greatly admired especially given the amount of extra time this takes.

The gates on the way to the village were nicely maintained.

The milk churns provide a lovely token to times past. It is good planning to have them up higher to ensure maximum exposure.

Concluding Remarks:

Killasmestia still retains the charm of its village while continuing to move with the times of updating when

necessary. The work that your committee does is evident throughout. We wish you well in your future plans.