

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Kildorrery - Cill Dairbhre</b>	Ref: <b>457</b>
County: <b>Cork(North)</b>	Mark: <b>326</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>02/07/2019</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	60	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	45	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	33	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	19	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	39
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>326</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kildorrery – Cill Dairbhre páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Many thanks for your application, map, photos and summary of three-year plan. Your application form is well-illustrated with photos and clearly written. You took the advice of last year's adjudicator and indicated new (N), maintenance (M) and future projects (FP). Make sure they are consistently indicated throughout the form. It would make your application little easier to follow if the projects were presented as a list with a number for each project or activity, and the same number used on the map to indicate location, where appropriate rather than paragraphs of text. You had a good-sized committee and a big pool of volunteers to help out. You liaise with a range of organisations including the county council and local businesses. You use a wide range of methods to communicate with your community. It's good to hear that the web text approach is providing so successful at getting volunteers. You have strong links with the school and the local scout group. Kildorrery Tidy Towns have a long list of achievements and awards and appear to be going from strength to strength.

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

Kildorrery has a fine main street with many well-presented private residences and business premises including Ollies Bar, McGraths, Walshs, Sheehan's Hilltop Lounge, Thornhill Pharmacy, Thatch and Thyme restaurant and two hair salons. The Centra and Post Office are also well-presented and inviting. There are many attractive flowerbeds, planters and baskets in the village but I particularly liked the stone flowerbed in front of the PO. The new bed in front of the Centra will develop over time. The school has stunning views of the surrounding countryside and lovely grounds. I liked the noticeboard at the entrance and wildlife panel, and it was good to see the flags flying. Obtaining their 6th Green Flag is a huge achievement. The Creamery looks great and it sounds like it is at the heart of the community. The old cart and churns at the end of the Store look lovely. A low hedge might work better on the boundary instead of flowers. The new boundary wall in the Creamery Yard was noted. St. Bartholomew's Church is very well maintained, as are the playground and grotto with colourful planting.

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

The Village Park on the Fermoy Road is a fantastic amenity for the community. It is beautifully maintained and continues to evolve as you add more planting. I particularly liked the pollinator-friendly beds with catmint along the road frontage. The 1916 garden is nice but overall this area is quite busy. Simpler planting with perennials rather than Begonias might work better to complement the memorial. Minimise bare soil in flowerbeds to reduce the need for constant weeding and top up the bark mulch around some of the shrubs. There is also some lovely native hedging and trees. A couple of dead trees should be replaced. The Community Garden also looks great and very productive. I loved the stone name plate. The fence at the back of Farrahy Park was noted. Some climbers to soften

the look of the fence might be a good idea. The old ditch probably is a haven for wildlife. The agricultural implements look well. The picnic areas on the Limerick Road and the Mitchelstown Road were visited and both are well-maintained. I note that another 'overgrown' ditch was removed on the Limerick Road. This may also have been a haven for wildlife! There were people using the Mitchelstown Road picnic area which is well-sheltered from the road. You mention that trees on the Mitchelstown Road were pruned. This is important if road or pedestrian safety is an issue but otherwise trees are best left un-pruned. Post and rail fencing was erected at the entrance to the village also on the Mitchelstown Road to screen an 'overgrown' area and laurel hedging was planted. Personally I'm not a fan of laurel hedging outside of gardens and native hedging is much more likely to thrive in this location. The planting with roses and catmint along the stonewall on the Fermoy approach road looks particularly well. There are some lovely landscaped areas on this road. The flowerbeds on the green in Oaklawn look really lovely. What a great place to live with the Park nearby and the Community Garden. There are many nice planters, window boxes and hanging baskets in the village, particularly along the main street. It must be quite a lot of work to keep them watered but they were in excellent condition on adjudication day and added a vibrant splash of colour to the main street.

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

Just a reminder to list projects/activities here and number them (with corresponding numbers on the map). There is no need to describe past projects or activities apart from maintenance work. A herb bed in the school is a great idea. Herbs are good to eat and many are wonderful for pollinators. Ivy provides a late source of food for pollinators and planting it in the Community Garden along the boundary fence is a good idea. You mention leaving the grass along the approach roads uncut until the dandelions have flowered. Maybe include a photo next year. I noticed a couple of bird boxes in the Village Park. Where you have bird boxes, I would recommend monitoring them to see if they are being used and by whom. Any nesting material or other debris should be cleared out at the end of the nesting season. The boxes shouldn't be nailed to trees as this can damage the tree. Do you have a biodiversity plan for the village? It might be helpful to develop one to guide your work. Are there some areas of grassland in the Village Park that could be left uncut during the summer months to allow the wildflowers to flower?

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

I'm delighted to see that you collect a considerable amount of rainwater for your watering requirements and that you use grey water in the polytunnel. You encourage your community to use public transport and to walk where possible. You are leading by example with your composting of grass etc. and you re-use as many materials as possible in your landscaping/planting activities. You are encouraging and inspiring people to grow their own in the Community Garden and the GIY Cottage Market. The local scouts have all been trained in 'leave no waste'. How about running some workshops for the community on zero plastic, composting, upcycling, energy conservation (and grants available etc.)? Could you quantify the amount of water you are collecting and using in the water butts to show the positive impact you are having? Do the local shops reward people who bring re-usable cups for coffee/tea?

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

Kildorrey was spotless on adjudication day. No litter was seen apart from a bit at the picnic area on the Mitchelstown Road, which is hard to avoid with the volume of passing traffic. The footpaths and kerbing along the main street are in good condition and there was no on-street clutter. Your litter picks are having a positive impact and you seem to be supported in your efforts by your community. There were a few weeds in the landscaped areas (e.g. at the Grotto) but nothing excessive. If you avoid bare soil in your planting design it reduces the spaces for weeds.

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

There are many fine residences on the main street in the village, some of which are maintained to a very high standard- well painted and with attractive floral displays. There are also some lovely houses on the approach roads. There is a nice shrubbery at the entrance to Bearná Dara. The green area in the estate could do with mowing in some sections. Oak Lawn has a lovely green out front with trees and flower beds. Hillcrest has an attractive flowerbed at the entrance and a large green space. Perhaps more trees could be planted here?

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

The approach roads to Kildorrey are maintained very well. The stone name plates are attractive and the mix of trees, hedgerows, flowerbeds and cut grassland provide 'gateways' to the village. There is potential to leave some of the grass uncut and just cut a strip close to the road, particularly on the Mitchelstown Road. This would provide habitat for pollinators and reduce your energy usage. I wondered if you have discussed traffic calming measures with the council. There is quite a volume of traffic travelling through the village on the N72. There was some evidence of over-use of herbicide on the approach roads. I would aim to reduce this in order to protect biodiversity, the environment and human health. As I said earlier, when planting hedging on approach roads, Laurel or other non-native hedging doesn't fit in well in my opinion and native hedging is much more likely to thrive.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Kildorrey. I was hugely impressed with what you have achieved to date and the lovely setting of the village.

