

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilgarvan - Cill Gharbháin** Ref: **970**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **272**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	60	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	37	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	22	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
TOTAL MARK	470	268	272

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kilgarvan Cill Gharbháin páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

With 12 on the committee and another 28 volunteers who assist as needed, you are very representative of a small village. You hold eight meetings throughout the year and in summertime, weekly meetings and work and plan for the following week. You are fortunate to have Tusla scheme workers to assist your programme and are well supported by residents, voluntary groups and schools as well as local businesses and public bodies. The use of Facebook, notice board newspaper etc., are your means of communication. The involvement with local schools is commendable and well done to teachers and students for their success in the Green Flag Awards. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and photographs. The map is excellent and even though the print was small, we could read it because it is so well done. However, it would be a little easier if it was printed on A3 and folded into A4 – it does not need to be laminated. In regard to the application, we note you have printed out information on separate pages and with adhesive, attached it to the respective criteria. That is a lot of work and so we suggest you consider downloading the form and typing the information directly onto the form. That way, you can add more without having to make it fit into the space. Another benefit is that you can include pictures within the application rather than attaching large pictures separately, which is much less effective and adds unnecessary bulk. So, these are some suggestions for next year's application. Thank you for attaching the action plan 2019 -2021.

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

In the village centre, we were very impressed with a three-storey building of stone construction with white windows, reveals and sills and black doors. It is a focal point in the village which is enhanced with two small trees in the small front gardens. A building adjacent has a rusty roof that takes from the impact on the view from the rear. Nearby, a corner recess was developed as a rest/picnic area with a mural of Ardtully Castle on one of the boundary walls. Saint Patrick's Church is located on a prominent site within the village fronted by a grassed area and with car parking to the side. We admired the Church and Grotto and the ornamental railings on the boundary with the road. There are evergreen trees on the eastern boundary and trees to the rear of the building. We suggest that some trees such as birch on the front lawn would add further enhancement. If the spaces in the adjacent car park were marked out and to include some trees, this part of the village would be further improved. The MACE shop, Post Office and Maxol Service Station was in good condition and the grounds were clean and tidy. The Jackie Healy Rae Pub was well-painted. Across the road, The Village Grill with its green walls, yellow window reveals, and white windows stood out. Beside it, O'Reilly's Bar with lighter green walls, red windows, plinths and doors with white piers also caught our eye. Both of these latter mentioned premises were adorned with floral displays. Further on, vacant

buildings were painted yellow and light blue and a corner structure was painted purple. Well done on your efforts to improve these premises. The Community Centre is a fine building that is well-maintained. Well done on having public toilets; something which is lacking in most towns and villages. Quills shop and Funeral Home looked very well but the ESB substation, an essential service for the community, is difficult to screen, even with the few trees planted on the site. O'Suilleabhain's Pub also looked well. The Conserve a Sash building is in good condition, but the view here would benefit from removal of the steel container to the side, removal of weeds and to have the site landscaped.

The old Kilgarvan Burial-ground is located on a prominent corner site, enclosed with a stone wall. The layout of the grounds is displayed on a good quality sign at the entrance. The grounds are enclosed by an old stone wall on which stone crop (Sedum) is well established. Oxeye daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) provide a wonderful display within the grounds and provide sufficient proof that spraying of chemical weed killers is not taking place on this site. The walls of the new cemetery located at the rear of St. Garvan's Terrace were well-painted and the grass well-maintained. Most graves were clean and tidy although some are neglected. What a pity that space for trees was not provided for in the layout. Perhaps trees can be planted on the right-hand side if and when the overhead wires are moved elsewhere.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and you while there are several groups of existing mature trees around the village, it is important to plant for future generations. There are many opportunities for you to plant trees for example on the embankments on approach roads, but you have chosen grass and shrubs. Trees provide long lasting benefits and are less costly than flowers and containers. In planting new trees, it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. Also, it is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds, grass and flower beds to ensure early establishment. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake and we advise checking trees in Limewood estate for this problem. We also advise that birch trees planted on the grassed area in front of the church would provide enhancement which would be more in scale with the building, rather than flowers. While we appreciate the work involved in having containers with flowers on the wall outside the church, they are not necessary; the wall and railing is fine on its own. An old rubber pipe being used as a plant container does not add any enhancement; it would best be removed.

We note your mention of repositioning the large containers to areas where it is not possible to plant directly into the ground and commend you for that approach and your intention to focus more on pollinator friendly plants.

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

You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Your application refers to some initiatives that you intend to implement, such as the Kilgarvan Loop walk and the activities taking place in the school. It is great to see pictures of children being involved with the school garden. Kilgarvan Central School grounds were well-planted, and we saw the Green Flag flying proudly. Well done to teachers and students for achieving five Green Flags. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the schools or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information.

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

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society. In Kilgarvan, activities listed under this heading include rain water harvesting, a wild flower garden, paper drinking straws and 100% recyclable drinking cups, clothes recycling and also Christmas cards. In the school they continue to recycle batteries, ink cartridges, paper, stamps and phones. This year they are participating in the 'Incredible edibles' programme

The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is taken for granted). At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. What are homes and businesses doing to tackle these?

There are several other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability.

- One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition.
- Regarding water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering.
- In response to an overuse of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds.

For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Actions listed under this heading include the annual Spring clean at which an amazing 94 bags of rubbish was collected, fortnightly litter picks, cleaning signposts and the "litter pickers" from the school who assist during their lunch break. Several workshops were also held to educate students and volunteers on which materials can be recycled. The recycling bins tidy and we liked the way some side screening was done. However, we suggest that they be moved to an alternative less conspicuous site. The planting here was quite attractive. We are pleased to report that we found Kilgarvan very clean and tidy, with some exceptions such as side alleys between buildings and the area around "Conserve a Sash".

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

Houses in the village are in general well-maintained and we liked the colourful painting scheme. Rockmount care centre was well landscaped with hedges trees and flowers. The Roads were in good condition and we admired the stone walls. Limewoods estate has nice houses with small gardens; the open space could do with trees. Established trees still have supporting stakes, so we advise that they be checked and if not needed, remove them. The small Suíomú Álainn estate is very nice; with big gardens and some trees. At Healy Rae Park the name stone is hidden with foliage.

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

The general approach to Kilgarvan is very good. What impressed us the most was the attractive stone walls and where they could not be seen, there were well-established hedges or ivy such as opposite the Maxol garage. Some large advertising signs on approach roads take from the experience of visiting Kilgarvan.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on the various improvements undertaken in your village. We hope this report provides some guidance for further improvements.