

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killorglin - Cill Orglan** Ref: **341**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **314**
Category: **D** Date(s): **23/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	60	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	41	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	33	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
TOTAL MARK	470	310	314

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

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

Your committee of 8 members is supported by 14 regular volunteers and several other volunteers from the St. Mary of the Angels home in Beaufort. For specific projects such as the annual clean up, you successfully mobilised up to 70 supporters this past Spring. You are fortunate to have a 'Meitheal' of other workers such as the men's shed, scout's group, local schools and sporting clubs to assist as needed. Many meetings are held throughout the year and have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. The list you provided is quite impressive including 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 on the issuing of heritage medals for the 6th class students for the interviews with their grandparents/older neighbours. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention with some photographs between the text. May we suggest that because you have so much for adjudicators to visit that you work on improving this map for next year. In particular, in the vicinity of where the N70 meets Sunhill Road there are many landmarks that should be on the map and are not easy to find because the printing is so small. Feel free to enlarge this map to A3 and fold to A4. Your application is very well prepared but if the pictures were positioned beside the items being mentioned it would be much easier to read and understand. Also, a document in portrait orientation is much easier to manage on site compared with a landscape orientation. Please note that pages 22 – 25 were misplaced in the application.

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

There is a nice approach to Dromavally burial grounds with a low stone wall on the left-hand side and birch trees behind the wall. The right-hand side has a concrete wall that could be easily softened by planting climbing plants such as ivy at the wall base. Some weeds at the wall base present an untidy appearance. Left of the entrance gate, the enclosed area for mixed waste (including green waste) is not an ideal location and we suggest an alternative site be sourced. The graves are well-maintained but there is too much use of weed killer which spoils the overall appearance. The three stainless sign posts with layouts of graves is very well done; a timber seat nearby needs painting/weather protection. The old ruin and Yew trees add character to the cemetery.

The Bianconi, Guest House, Bar and Restaurant is a large building that dominates the street corner of Annadale Road. It was well painted, with a mural on the wall and Petunias in window boxes. Jack's the Master Baker in red colour dominates another corner of this junction. On Annadale Road there were weeds in paving and a vacant building. Off this road, there is a carpark which serves shoppers and has good access to town and river. The banks of the River Laune has some wetlands along this side. We enjoyed reading information on the sign about the

history of the bridge and how it was constructed. The view across the river to Puck Park and of the bridge was very interesting. Buildings which caught our eye were, Mulvihills Pharmacy, POC - Place of Clothing and James's Barbershop which had good window boxes on the upper floor. Eurospar occupies a large site and looks very well and adjacent buildings were generally well painted. Elsewhere in the town, Martha's Hair Salon and Scamps and Scholars Play School looked well.

Killorglin Sports is a fine big complex which would benefit from some landscape treatment – at least a few trees in the front lawn. There was good tree planting in the grounds of Community College, a well-painted building but Aqua design Ltd. has weeds at the wall base. The building is well-painted, but the grounds need landscape treatment. Opposite the college the planting is good, but this is spoiled by kerbside weeds and signs that need cleaning. The Diaspora Lady oak statue is a lovely feature on the pavement beside the Aldi building and in front of old railway building with red bricks around the windows, part of Fexco Head Office. This part of the town has developed a great deal with new commercial buildings, shops and streetscapes and we are pleased to add, street trees. The Manor Inn is a period house which looks very well in a landscaped setting. The Church lovely limestone and sandstone. Walls and railings were well maintained. We note your action in working with Kerry County Council on having vacant/derelict buildings improved.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Trees are the main structural elements in the landscape, and you have many good examples in Killorglin. In planting new trees, it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity as was done outside the Aldi building. 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 and we are pleased that this has been your approach. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake and this does not appear to be a problem for you.

The Fexco site has great planting, in particular, the birch trees impressed us greatly. The car park is well landscaped and the gate needs cleaning. This is one of the best car parks we have seen in terms of landscape treatment. On Main Street there is a traffic island with trees in big pots and we wonder why not put them in the ground where they can establish and require less maintenance in future years? On Iveragh Park, we admired the trees on a linear open space where you achieved success with Pride of Place in 2009. Well done. If considering more seasonal flowers the use of permanent planting including herbaceous perennials for floral displays is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming.

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

There is a rich natural area surrounding your community including the River Laune and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats which it seems from your application you are actively doing. 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 and we can see from your application that you have many actions that are helpful for sustainability. 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. The Conscious Cup Campaign in which you participate is one such innovation. Other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability are ...

- 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.
- Working with retailers to cut down on packaging by reminding people to re-use shopping bags.
- 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.

These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase. 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:

We have noted the several actions listed under this heading including litter patrols, segregation of collected litter, an annual audit of the streetscape, including poles, graffiti removal, undergrounding cables and we note you collected 424 bags of rubbish at this year's annual county clean-up.

In Main Street, there were weeds in paving, plenty of cigarette butts at the kerb edge. The cemetery was also untidy, especially at the entrance. Kerbside weeds were present in several places.

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

Under this heading is your campaign to reduce the number of derelict buildings and we wish you well with that

project. Saint James's Gardens is a small housing estate that is well maintained. In Laharn Drive a small estate we admired shrub planting opposite houses. In Laune view, the houses and gardens would benefit from hedges and trees. Many private houses in Killorglin are in good condition and are well-maintained.

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

Road improvement works were underway near the bridge and this must be causing significant traffic disruption at certain periods of the day, but the pain will be worth the completion of the scheme.

We were very impressed with the memorial to the Ballykissane drowning tragedy which took place on Good Friday 1916. These historical events can be lost in our memories unless there are reminders such as this one. It is very well done. Near here, the little Tidy Town plot needs attention. The new footpath and fence was noted. On the Cahersiveen Road the GAA grounds look well and we liked the boundary stone wall and railings.

Concluding Remarks:

We were pleased to visit your town which is famous for the annual Puck Fair. Well done on all your achievements and keep up the good work.