

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmoyley - Cill Mhaoile** Ref: **2111**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **290**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	43	44
Streetscape & Public Places	60	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	36	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	31	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	470	286	290

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

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

We have noted that your committee of 12 members supported by another 20-30 volunteers, hold monthly meetings throughout the year and have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. You receive support from 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. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and information on your activities throughout the year. We do encourage communities to aim for a 3-year plan because it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years.

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

Much of your work under this heading includes maintaining Brick's Cottage and Griffin's Cottages and well done on that effort. The mural of the rabbit at Brick's Cottage is well done and the painting of a man looking out over a half door looks well on Griffin's Cottage. The school is a fine building painted white with red on the plinth, window sills and around the windows. There are a variety of trees inside the stone boundary wall, some of which are leaning quite a bit. We suggest they be replaced with birch or maple in a future project. Well done on achieving Green Flag status. The adjacent Community Centre is well-maintained. Sacred Heart Church is a lovely stone building occupying a prominent position on a corner.

The old burial grounds are distinctive for the number of large tombs present there. It is clean and tidy, but we suggest a reduction in the use of weed killer as the dead grass takes from its appearance. The new cemetery beside the church is enclosed by a concrete dashed wall. What a pity that a traditional stone wall was not constructed here to match other walls in the area. The water tower would be a great site for painting a mural.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your landscape is surrounded with trees, which are the main structural element given to us by past generations. But trees will not live forever, so it is important for our generation to plant for future generations. In Kilmoyley, there are many opportunities to plant trees for this purpose and also to add enhancement to our buildings such as the church. One example is in the new cemetery, where it would be a good idea to plant more trees before all the space is taken up with graves. Cemeteries can look more like parks and be more inviting if trees are planted. The few ash trees planted inside one of the walls will help to do this, provided they receive formal pruning before they get much bigger. This should be done by a Horticulturist/Arboriculturist to ensure that the trees will develop a shape

that ensures it will grow into the future without hazardous branches. The large car park outside the stone boundary wall of the Sacred Heart Church is no doubt very useful. However, we advise some softening with tree planting both in the grounds of the church and in the car park.

In planting new trees, it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. It is a pity this was not done in the school grounds. At the new cemetery, two half barrels with flowers are placed each side of the entrance gates. If the concrete wall is to remain, we suggest that the ground in front of the wall be planted with climbing plants such as ivy which in a few years' time will soften its appearance. The GAA grounds is a large complex, surrounded by a concrete block wall. We wish to commend them for planting trees and shrubs outside the wall on one road but suggest that climbing plants such as ivy would be more successful and less costly to plant and maintain. This can be done on the other road, where the viewing stand is placed. 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:

The ducks made us very welcome at Lerrig Lough. This is a lovely little oasis within your community, and we admired various features here such as the Kilmoyley Insect Inn (six stars quality), nesting boxes and the information on feeding ducks (suggested by last year's adjudicator). The wildlife refuge looked well, and the little picnic area was inviting. However, other planting such as roses is unnecessary and doesn't fit in well with this very natural area. Even the rectangular shaped beds look out of place. If you wish to add more plants here, we suggest perhaps a curved shaped bed with plants that like growing in wet ground, such as Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Flag Iris (*Iris pseudoacorus*) and the Calla Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*). The half barrel container is out of place here and the use of pink colour for picnic benches is unsettling in this natural environment. The timber boundary fence is fine, but we suggest planting whitethorn hedging on both sides to reduce the hard impact. The lawn area did not appear to have any wildflowers at the time of our visit. We suggest a reduced mowing regime to allow wildflowers to establish. 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. This you have done by hosting flora and fauna information classes. 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. Actions listed in your application include ongoing work with the school and parent's association on environmental matters, including a campaign to end single use plastics in your community. The '2-minute street clean' initiative, moving away from non-disposable coffee cups, using more pollinator friendly plants, guided walks at Lerrig Lough and other measures. 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?

Other measures to consider are:

- You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition.
- 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

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:

You are vigilant in terms of this criterion by attending to weeds inside and outside the cemeteries. The '2-minute Street Clean' is a good initiative and you have regular litter picks on Kilmoyley Ring Road. The untidiest areas within your community are some farmyards and while these are busy places and important lifelines for your community, they take from your efforts visually. Perhaps they would consider improving their sites or providing some screening with trees and/or hedgerows. The recycling banks near the new cemetery would be better located within an enclosed site or if possible screened. In the past it was important to have these facilities in public areas but now that their use is accepted, they are best placed in less conspicuous locations. The entrance to the GAA grounds is neat and tidy.

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

With the exception of vacant/derelict buildings which you are attending to, many private dwellings in Kilmoyley are in good condition and well-maintained. Many have established gardens and hedges on their boundary. Well done on the annual gardening competition. The entrance to Bóthar na Seana Cheárta Cill Mhaoile has significant kerbside weeds.

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

Approach roads were in good condition and we liked the hedgerows and stone walls throughout. Concrete dashed walls where they occurred were well painted. The linear grassed margin in front of a fine stone wall has timber

seats, trees and shrubs. It looks very well.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on the various improvement works done in your community. We hope this report provides useful information on how to continue these improvements. Keep up the good work.