

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: Knockanure - Cnoc an Lúir	Ref: 1149
County: Kerry	Mark: 274
Category: A	Date(s): 15/06/2019

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	37	37
Streetscape & Public Places	60	35	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	36	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	22	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	32
TOTAL MARK	470	271	274

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Knockanure Cnoc an Lúir páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

It is great that your five committee members have the support of another ten volunteers. You have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools and receive support from Pobal and a lady from Knockanure who maintains contact with your community and visits twice yearly. You avail of newspaper and a newsletter for communication. We are pleased to see that children and teachers assist in clean-up projects. We note you are hopeful of getting a Junior Tidy Towns. Thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention. We 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:

The old Ahavoher Cemetery was our first visit and we were impressed with the eight granite seats placed in front of the altar for use when services are held in the cemetery. For an old cemetery it looks quite modern and is generally well-maintained except for kerbside weeds within the cemetery and at the wall base on the outside. In times past, it was a custom to plant trees, especially yew trees in cemeteries. That practice seems to have stopped a few decades ago. Since you still have some space available in this cemetery why not plant a line of oak trees (or yew trees) on both sides of the driveway inside the gate. Trees would make such a difference in enhancing the cemetery and making it look more like a park, a more suitable resting place for deceased members of your community. Knockanure National School is a very modern colourful building and we admired the Green Flag proudly flying. The Marian Shrine located beside the school grounds is well-maintained. We note that Flynn's Bar is only open at night; it needs repainting. The ground to both sides of the building is untidy and a building to the rear looks derelict. We liked the Community Centre and the colourful stone wall boundary. The modern church with its front façade of glass is quite different from most other churches. We were pleased to see some tree planting in the adjacent car park which looked very well.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and we suggest that you should explore possible sites for tree planting. 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. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible; they should not in themselves attract any notice. It is better to have fewer well planted containers than a

large number in which the quality of plants is inferior. If considering 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:

Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. 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.

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. It would be good if some of the GAA lands can be used for encouraging wildlife. Well done to teachers and students of Knockanure Primary School for being awarded a Green Flag for Biodiversity. It is great that you have a poly tunnel for growing various plants, including fruit and vegetables.

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

The Primary School has been awarded Green flags for Litter and waste, energy, water, travel and now biodiversity as mentioned above. Congratulations to all involved in this success. 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. 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? You can also review the use of weed killers and aim to reduce their usage. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. 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:

The approach taken in Knockanure is that one person collects litter every day and householders look after their own patch. This seems to be working well because apart from some litter outside the cemetery, we are pleased to report that everywhere looked quite clean.

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

The population of Knockanure is quite small and there are very few houses compared with other villages in the County. The six new houses opposite the church look very well, but they have no gardens and no landscape treatment such as trees or shrubs are planted except for a section of hedging in the central area.

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

On the approach from Moyvane, the road kerb on the left-hand side seems to disappear under vegetation. We suggest that you check out this section and restore the hidden section. The bilingual 'Moyvane' sign looks like it needs to be cleaned and we suggest removing some weed growth in its immediate vicinity to ensure it can be easily read.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on participating in the competition for approximately 18 years. We hope you find useful information in this report to encourage your participation for many more years to come.