

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinlough - Cionn Locha** Ref: **433**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **292**
Category: **C** Date(s): **28/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	44	44
Streetscape & Public Places	60	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	35	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	25	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	16	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
TOTAL MARK	470	287	292

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

Cuireann an moltoir seo failte roimh Kinlough (Cionn Locha) chuig Comortas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2019.

Thank you for your very concise and informative entry form complete with maps of the town and surrounds outlining places and projects of relevance.

You have taken on board comments made in last year's report and concentrated on work that can be achieved within a time scale that you as a committee can manage.

Quite a lot was contained in last year's report and this year's adjudicator appreciates the effort that you have taken in responding by giving up date report.

Some of the issues highlighted in last year's report were outside your control to be honest.

The main committee of 6 is ideal to manage the projects and ongoing work and but it is recommended that you try to recruit additional volunteers that you can call on help you with your work.

Kinlough is not exactly a small town and you need all the help you can get

It is good to report to note that you have such strong links with the businesses and other organisations in the parish.

The relationships that you have with the local authority and other agencies have proved to be beneficial.

This type of local cooperation is the key to further success in the competition.

Communication methods are varied and you depend on the traditional methods more than social media and if that's what serves you best well so be it

The Facebook page is not very active at the moment and should be discontinued if you haven't someone who will take ownership and update it regularly

In the 15 years that you have being involved in the competition progress has been steady.

Thank you for your positive endorsement of the competition and how it has impacted positively on your community.

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

It is noted that you have no new projects this year but that ongoing maintenance has been ongoing and evidence of this was seen on the adjudication walk about.

The adjudicator noted that you have responded to the comments made in last year's report in relation to satellite dishes and farm gates etc.

Some of the issues were resolved to the satisfaction of all others as per normal will either fall on deaf ears and not able to be solved for a myriad of reasons

The following are a number of observations that have been during the adjudication and in line with the guidelines.

The Church of Ireland Parish Church of Rossinver was nicely presented with lovely wrought iron gate and traditional notice board.

It was noteworthy that service now takes place in Bundoran.

St Edans RC Church was excellently maintained with grounds in pristine condition and a very attractive stone boundary wall,

Well done to those entrusted with the upkeep of these two ecclesiastical premises.

McGloins, Connollys Butchers, Spar and the Post Office, Kinlough Inn which is actually a Chinese Take Away and the Barbers shop where u can make an appointment on facebook and get a tattoo if I can recall correctly all deserve praise for presenting their respective premises in an exemplary manner.

Simpson's Service Station is a provider of services in a number of facets but, shop, garage and some hardware items.

Every small town needs a Simpsons so well done to the proprietors; they serve a mean ice cream cone as well.

The GAA Grounds and Community Centre offer leisure facilities to cater for all the community.

On the day there was a Cul Camp in progress and the enthusiasm of kids was infectious.

The Four Masters National School looked a well run junior educational establishment with spacious play area that was tidy and clean.

Forgot to note whether it had a Green Flag presence but one assumes yes.

The layout of Kinlough particularly appealed to the adjudicator and the road surfaces, footpaths which extended a fair bit out from the town, and street lighting with energy efficient bulbs were of top quality.

Some road works probably tarring were ongoing just at the entrance to the village on the Manorhamilton exit.

Overall the standard was very good and warrants an increase in marks

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

One would certainly agree that you have a lovely backdrop to your village with Lough Melvin also nearby.

Last year's adjudicator is correct in saying that you need to promote the uniqueness your village and its importance as a Special Area of Conservation.

Not an easy one to address for a voluntary committee but the first step approach as provided in last year's report.

Well done on ordering the sign for the Eco Park as when installed it will enhance the amenity even further.

The following is a cross section of observations made during the adjudication.

There has been some excellent maintenance work done in this category as observed by the adjudicator as existing shrub beds were all in very good state of presentation.

Just curious about the reconstruction of the pitch at the Community Centre.

Is that not a collaborative effort with the famed Melvin Gaels GAA Club or am I getting mixed up?

Trees are an important part of the landscape fabric of any Irish village or town.

The adjudicator feels that the village might benefit from some additional tree planting in core of the village as there seems to be too few.

Those that are there are well preserved, secure and protected.

Some additional species of native trees could be planted in tree growing boxes in the lower part of the village near the Dartry Centre.

It's just a suggestion that maybe the committee could discuss with the area engineer and see what transpires.

There were some exceptional private front gardens to be seen one in particular owned by local bus company proprietor.

Overall the standard was very good and for the additional work that was done in the last year an extra mark has been awarded.

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

The key components of this adjudication category are a) knowledge of local species and habitats and knowledge of local designated areas and b) being able to promote the knowledge gained to the local community and the passing visitor in format that would be easily accessed such as wildlife information boards in a central location.

Good wildlife advice and communication of the importance of the local wildlife heritage to the local community is so important.

Being aware of invasive and possible destructive plants such as Japanese knot weed is also essential.

The adjudicator is impressed with the number of simple projects that have been put in place since last year.

Your comment response to the "local organic centre in the County "being involved" in the Eco Park was noted.

The adjudicator visited the Eco Garden and saw for himself the new additions that have been put in place.

Well done on organising an art competition with the local school to promote the need for proper pollination methods.

For further information on this or indeed for extra advice that may help you with your planned projects connect to www.biodiversityireland.ie

For further information on plants for pollination access www.pollinators.ie

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

The objective in this category has moved on to some extent from of reduce reuse and recycle to one of promoting the concept of reducing the production of potential waste at source such as excessive packaging.

Such is the title concept Doing more with less is a slogan that we may well see more of before too long as we come to grips with the National problem of too much of the throwaway mentality.

The 10 measures that you have entered in the application form are very much in keeping with the ethos of the sector.

Many of these have been replicated in other centres around the country but the adjudicator was taken with "mind the gap" club idea which fosters the idea of inclusivity and help your senior neighbours in the community.

So well done on this.

For further idea generation and to come up with some novel ideas for your community do consult the following: www.localprevention.ie for ideas would be www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie

Also something that this adjudicator became aware of late is the circular economy.

It is a bit too long to explain the concept in detail in this report, but if you access the following www.dccae.gov.ie you will get a pretty good idea of what it's all about.

The idea of what is called a linear economy of "take, make and waste" is now being seen as not sustainable and alternatives need to be found.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The standard in this category was good but there were more than a few instances where litter was seen at kerbsides and on the street near the Village Inn.

As stated in a previous section the town is free from unsightly overhead wiring and this is a big plus in terms of general tidiness.

Signs both name, speed limit and directional were in the main clean and visible.

The Bring Bank was tidy and well managed.

Two back and side areas in a central enough part of the village need to be tidied up a little more.

Also one area at the side of personal grooming service provider's premises was messy after a hefty amount of weed killer was used to kill off overgrowth.

The adjudicator would encourage the committee to get the message to all property owners to keep side and back areas as tidy as possible.

And the adjudicator also has noted your response to abandonment of wrecked cars near the Church and accepts that this is part of an existing business

Overall the standard was as stated good.

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

The adjudicator was actually very surprised at the number of housing developments in Kinlough and most were visited during the adjudication.

Well done on organising a Best Estate Competition, this encourages residents to take ownership of their own respective areas and also it brings some healthy rivalry that in the end creates positivity.

Chion Lacha is a very well presented cluster of houses in a core area of the town and some of the front gardens here were of the highest quality.

It has a very unusual some name feature that doubles as a seating stone.

Glenview has an extremely attractive stone surround stone feature, some of the houses could do with being painted and parking here was cluttered because of the number of cars.

Melvin Court was nice and tidy and Melvin Fields had lovely entrance with well tended shrub bed and dog fouling deterrent sign.

Others such as Manor Grove with its unusual house design were well presented as most residents strove to have their homesteads presented in the best possible fashion.

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

You are wished well with your negotiations with Leitrim County Council to get road surfaces at the Community Centre finished and all tidied up

Entrance from Bundoran Twinning sign needs up grading and reduce speed sign obscured by a tree

Entrance from Rossinver excellent with footpath extending out to Lough Melvin Park

Entrance from Manorhamilton was a bit disrupted as road surfacing was taking place.

An update on the future planned projects for this category should be included with next year's entry form.

The standard merits an increase in marks.

Concluding Remarks:

It was the adjudicator's first stop over visit to Kinlough and a very pleasant experience it was.

You have performed very well in the competition over the year.

The adjudicator wishes you well for the future.