

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiltegan - Cill Téagáin** Ref: **254**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **312**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/07/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	40	42
Streetscape & Public Places	60	40	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	39	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	21	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	37	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	43	44
TOTAL MARK	470	301	312

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kiltegan - Cill Téagáin páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Welcome Kiltegan and thank you for your comprehensive and colourful entry form. Perhaps next year you might think to use a different font/colour for your answers - it makes your answers stand out for the adjudicator who is often reading the report under difficult circumstances – in the car or out in the rain and wind etc. and will ensure that nothing is missed! You've a small village but great community spirit with lots of support from local businesses, public agencies and bodies. Well done on reaching out to your four local schools – this is so important for teaching the next generation about the value of volunteer work that is so vitally important in our local communities as well as hopefully finding a few future Kiltegan Tidy Towns members! Well done on your very detailed 3-5 Year Plan – I'm intrigued by the 'mysterious white stuff filled bags'! The Plan is very comprehensive and will keep you all very busy for the years to come. We look forward to the fruition of these plans.

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

Kiltegan looked very well on adjudication day. You have lots of lovely, characterful buildings that are well looked after. The abandoned garage on your main street is an unfortunate eyesore to have to deal with – completely out of your control but well done on trying to do something. Your sweet pea project was a great idea but it looks like maybe there just wasn't enough soil on top of the wall to support them to put on a good show this summer. Don't be disheartened! Maybe next year it might be possible to use narrow window box pots sitting on top of the wall or at its base on the pavement? Then you could fill them with soil/peat-free compost (that you've made following your compost workshop this year!) and plant again. Annual sweet peas, although beautiful are no good for pollinators but Everlasting (perennial) sweet pea plants are and better again they only need planting once. Other good plants to cover the fence here would be Sunflowers, Fennel, Verbena bonariensis. Consult with the very helpful 'Pollinator Planting Code' freely available at www.pollinators.ie/resources for all sorts of help and inspiration for all kinds of planting inspiration.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Hub is a great community venture but the area could do with a colour injection! There are a couple of nice wooden tubs outside but their plants weren't looking too robust. Our pollinator species populations are in such trouble in Ireland that it is incumbent on all to provide as much food and habitats for them as possible. Tidy Towns groups all over Ireland have a huge role to play in this by ensuring lots of flowers are planted in their public places. The planting needs to be generally of the perennial variety as the annuals of old planting habits don't provide much food by way of pollen. The excellent 'Pollinator Planting Code' mentioned above will provide lots of ideas. Outside The Hub would be the perfect spot for a community herb garden – herbs provide lots of pollinator-friendly flowers as

well as tasty leaves for us humans! Rosemary, chives, lavender, thyme, borage, sage and fennel are all excellent examples that would do well in the pots at The Hub. You have worked on the planting in the Green this year, transplanting plants from the Triangle, however, a bit more colour would be great. You have lovely big Lavender plants and Sedums for autumn colour but by adding some herbaceous perennials such as Hardy geraniums, Astrantias, Penstemons, Shasta daisies and Hellebores you will be adding more longer lasting colour as well as feeding our pollinators.

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

Well done on the completion of your Habitat map for Kiltegan. This will guide you in your future projects, knowing what you have and what can be enhanced. Focus on creating and maintain green wildlife/biodiversity corridors through your village using the river and hedgerows that already exist. Great to see all the work you have been doing to enhance awareness of biodiversity issues locally with the Tinkerbelle pre-school biodiversity visit, your celebration of National Tree Week and your Gardening for Biodiversity course. Lots of 'Managed for Wildlife' All-Ireland Pollinator Plan signs were noted around the village. A word of caution here about not overusing them - some were located in beds where no particular wildlife management was evident! Well done on the simple but effective project of drilling holes in dead tree stumps for pollinators. You clearly have a great awareness of the importance of looking after our waters and well done for spreading this awareness through hosting the Local Authority Waters Programme meeting in the Hub last April. Continue to liaise with your Local Community Waters Officer – this is a new office providing great support to local community groups. Tyneclash graveyard has lots of biodiversity potential that could form part of your proposed heritage project here. Download your free copy of the Heritage Council's excellent guide to looking after graveyards for community groups: 'Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards' which will provide lots of advice and inspiration. The graveyard is an idyllic, peaceful spot with so much potential as quiet place for community use. However, first priority will have to be a safe footpath leading out from the village. The yew trees in the graveyard are wonderful and there is terrific potential here for a wildflower meadow with winding grass paths cut through it to entice the walker. No seeding would be needed here, just manage with a first cut in May, remove the cuttings (to help form part of your community compost mentioned above!) and only cut the grass about once a month after that until a final cut in September. Congratulations to Tynock National School for achieving their Green Flag for Biodiversity.

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

Well done to The Hub – on introducing compostable take-away cups and a money off incentive to bring your own cup. Your ongoing order and collect arrangement with Supervalu is super! A great arrangement saving lots of fuel consumption. Also great to hear how your new pollinator-friendly mowing regime is paying dividends with less petrol costs! Good luck to Kiltegan National School over the next year with its work to achieve its 4th Green Flag for Transport and hopefully lots more Red squirrels will be spotted in the coming years – maybe they should be fed their own supply of peanuts to encourage these native beauties! Good luck with all your plans for workshops and events in this category in the future – raising awareness in your local community is the first step and lots more marks are achievable in this category into the future.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Having 60 people work on a 100km Litter Pick challenge is hugely impressive for a town never mind a small village like Kiltegan so many congratulations on this huge effort. The Pure Mile project has clearly been a huge success all over Co. Wicklow and the lovely roads around Kiltegan bear witness to its success as well as the hard work of Kiltegan's residents! The village was litter free and tidy on adjudication day. Congratulations to Talbotstown National School for achieving their second Green Flag and good luck in their endeavours to achieve their third flag for 'Water' in 2020.

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

All residential areas looked well on adjudication day. You mention in your entry form that you have future plans for pollinator-friendly bulb meadows in some residential areas. This would be a beautiful project. Less mowing of grass areas is to be encouraged in order to allow the all-important wildflowers such as dandelions to flower but also the addition of pollinator-friendly bulbs such as Snowdrops, Crocuses and Muscari (Grape hyacinths) would be terrific. Unfortunately, as you are probably aware neither daffodils or tulips are of food value to pollinators but so long as you plant lots of the bulbs listed above then some daffodils and tulips will add even more colour. The great thing is that these bulbs will continue for many years – the crocus meadow in Kilmacurragh Gardens is 300 years old!

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

Some verges on your approach roads don't have longer grass left at the base of hedges and walls. These are vital habitats needed for both nesting and hibernating bumblebees so please leave them where at all possible. Only mow one mower's width of the roadside edge as you have done in several places leaving the all-important thick grassy habitat at the base of the wall or hedge. This type of management was obvious on the Hacketstown and High Park roads perfectly demonstrating what is meant to be demonstrated when using the All-Ireland Pollinator 'Managed for Wildlife' poster! All the handsome, new Kiltegan village signs were noted.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done Kiltegan Tidy Towns on all your hard work and the very best of luck with all your great plans for the future. We look forward to a return visit to see how you get on.

