

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildorrery - Cill Dairbhre** Ref: **457**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **334**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/08/2021**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	47
Streetscape & Public Places	60	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40
TOTAL MARK	470	334

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime.

Lean leis an dea-obair. Welcome to the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry (I made sure it was the correct one, thanks for sending it in!) and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

Well done adapting to the huge challenges of the past year and a half by coming up with a new way of working together. The group and wider community connected via text groups and you set up online chats to discuss how you would ensure maintenance and basic tasks could be taken care of. You followed HSE guidelines at all times helping to keep yourselves and your community safe. I really like the effort to recycle items such as slides and bikes among the community at a time when these items were probably of great value to some. It's also good to hear that the elderly were minded well during the pandemic. You have a good-sized committee of 8 and 25 who volunteer which sounds great. You liaise with a wide range of other community organisations, local businesses and Cork County Council. It's great to have the support of a good CE scheme too. I like your Tidy Towns high-vis vests! A Facebook page is a great way to communicate with your community because it's free and easily accessed. I couldn't find one for the Tidy Towns group but I did see some lovely photos from 2021 on the Tidy Towns page of the Community Development website. Rather than identifying one specific project where there was particular effort applied since 2019 you mention nine projects! Maybe just highlight one next time, there is plenty of space for the others in the application. It's great to read you have been involved with the Tidy Towns competition since 1994, a fantastic achievement.

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

You describe the history of some of your projects such as renovation of the community office an the creamery building, which is interesting but it would be helpful for the adjudicator if you just describe maintenance, new or future projects. We know that you have been working hard for many years and maintenance of previous projects is as important as developing new projects. It's hard to know what has been done recently and what was done in the past. The photos of the buildings today look great. The future project to upgrade the Store will new toilets, doors and floors etc. sounds like a good idea. The playground, church, school, Centre and grotto all look very well kept with attractive planting. I'm sure there is a lot of maintenance work involved here. Kildorrery has particularly attractive streetscape, public spaces and buildings which you have worked hard to make the most of. Next year maybe list out the maintenance works, new and future projects so that you highlight all that you have done in the year.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Again there is no need to tell us the history of the project, just let us know what works you have done within the year or plan to do. The Village Park looks gorgeous. I note that last year's adjudicator thought it was fantastic. I'm sure a lot of maintenance works are required here to keep it looking so well. You have also worked hard to develop Farrahy Park and you will be planting some climbers to soften the look of the fence. Climbers could add value for wildlife too. You also maintain the picnic sites which have increased in usage, probably because they are attractive and well-maintained. The Gate's Meadow sounds intriguing and looks like a nice place to walk from the photos. I note that trees were pruned on the Mitchelstown approach road for health and safety reasons. I do hope a qualified Arboriculturalist provided advice here. Many trees in Ireland are badly pruned for no good reason. Lifting tree crowns and removing dead branches is ok but topping of trees is very unsightly in my view. The upgrade of the area adjacent to the GAA sounds like it will look well based on the wide variety of plants and shrubs that have been used in the beds and the photos. Window boxes for residents in Oaklawn sounds like a lovely idea and the photos look great.

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

The Heritage and Wildlife Trail sounds wonderful, I look forward to walking it someday. I'm not clear if more work was done on this in the past couple of years. It's good to hear that some elements such as the bug hotel have been very successful. I'm glad to hear that grass is not cut on approach roads until the dandelions have flowered. Perhaps there are some areas that could be left all summer so that the existing native wildflowers have a chance to flowers. There is a lot of guidance on pollinator-friendly projects in www.pollinator.ie I'm sure much of your planting already is good for wildlife. Perhaps you could see if this could be enhanced. You might also consider applying for funding to develop a biodiversity plan for the village that would guide your work.

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

You seem to have numerous initiatives in this category that have been developed in recent years including rainwater harvesting, use of grey water in the polytunnel, use of public transport, composting and recycling facilities etc. which is great. Again it's a little hard to determine what are recent 'maintenance', new or future projects. I'm delighted to hear of the seed-saving and other sustainable approaches in the community garden. The garden is a fantastic asset for the community for many reasons, showcasing sustainability being one of them. It's good to hear that the scouts have received 'leave no trace' training.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your team of volunteers help with weeding and keeping the place tidy in general. It's a great idea to use mulch in flower beds to keep the weeds down and avoid the use of herbicides. You have a rota for litter picks and are helped by many of the volunteers, including the scouts who go on regular litter picks. Involving young people in clean ups is a great idea. You have a strong track record in litter control and it's important to always think about future generations. Your recycling area looks impressive. Reducing the production of waste is key to protecting our resources and the natural world upon which we depend. Recycling is important but it would be great if we didn't produce the waste in the first place in order to reduce the environmental cost.

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

Your photos of residential areas indicate that people in Kildorrery take great pride of place and by maintaining their residences to a high standard. It's good to read that Hillcrest Estate is now finished. Well done to the resident's association for planting a flower bed at the entrance and for maintaining the estate. The Fáilte go Cill Dairbhre plaques on the approach roads are continually maintained, which is important. You have met with the area engineer and agreed resurfacing and reconstruction of the Limerick Road side over the next two years. I'm glad to hear that the inner banks on the approach roads are left to grow wild to encourage wildlife. This can look very attractive too

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

You mentioned in the Green Spaces and Landscaping section that quite a bit of work has gone into improving and enhancing the approach roads. The Fáilte go Cill Dairbhre plaques on the approach roads are continually maintained, which is important. You have met with the area engineer and agreed resurfacing and reconstruction of the Limerick Road side over the next two years. I'm glad to hear that the inner banks on the approach roads are left to grow wild to encourage wildlife. This can look very attractive too.

Concluding Remarks:

I really enjoyed my virtual visit to Kildorrery. Keep up the excellent work! You could improve your application by focusing on describing maintenance, new and future projects within the adjudication year so that the adjudicator really gets a sense of all your hard work.