

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcummin** Ref: **1020**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **255**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	31	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	244	255

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Na fáiltí geala roimh Kilcummin Looking Good go comórtas SuperValu TidyTowns na bliana 2015. Thank you for your entry form, your helpfully enumerated map of the village, your most stimulating Biodiversity Project. I read this with interest at home before ever setting foot in the village and looked forward to the progress you have made. As I write this I note that there is no timeframe in which this work is to be undertaken and that worries me somewhat. You seem to manage fundraising in a manner that does generate funds but it is also obvious that fundraising is a continuing challenge for your committee. Yet you seem to be successful in this area. Apart from funding from various agencies the various funding projects you mention raise your profile in the community and hopefully raise your credibility among the locals. Your engagement with the school also seems to be meaningful and to introduce, in a very natural way, the youth into TidyTowns activities. You are relatively new to this competition but your participation seems to have had a magic wand effect on Kilcummin. Listing the various projects over the last few years is a great idea as these are major improvements that demand a lot of effort but could go unnoticed by the adjudicator who visits for the first time. There is a positivity about the language and the tone of your entry form that is contagious. Words like 'transformed' and 'enhanced' raise the spirits. The contrast between the non existence and the 'provision of continuous footpaths' illustrates that transformation and the enhancement. Nár laga Dia sibh.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The design of the Church in Kilcummin is a modern day delight. And one not only misses out from a spiritual point of view but also from an aesthetic point of view if one does not take the time to visit. The landscaping about the Church adds to the attraction. This Church is a wonderful experience. Across the way the Kilcummin Recreational Hall, though from an older generation of buildings, looks well but could be brightened up with a brighter colour on the doors. The school is also a fine building, in fact the whole school complex is admirable. One has to see the front profile of the GAA building to really appreciate the design of this building. It is seldom that one sees a GAA club invest in the decorative appearance of its front so well done all. The adjudicator is disappointed that the grounds of the old Church are neglected. But well done on the paintwork. What a pleasant surprise the Care Facility is, looks inviting, modern and well maintained. You are lucky that the Post office has survived and it too is well presented. In order to get the best impression of the Village Inn one needs to drop in as the front elevation is more attractive than that of the gable to the road. It would make a visit more enticing if that gable were adorned in some way, as with some landscaping. The building housing the Kilcummin Rural Development is also a fine building.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your submission alerted one to the new rose bed at the junction and well done. But make sure that the roses do not have to compete with weeds. One also spotted the hedging at the Church car park. The big containers of flowers

at the park add to the interest of the visual appearance of that wall and front at the biodiversity garden. The adjudicator is impressed with the number of trees that have been planted. The planting along the inside of the Garden wall will soon flourish. One feels that you can improve on the two plastic tubs of flowers at the cemetery. The person who painted the creamery tanks black could be the person with the imaginative flair to enhance the appearance of the cemetery. Lovely touch. Those flowers on the top of the pillars are also a lovely touch.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

The work that has been done in the millennium park is at the heart of your wildlife activities, even though that work is described in the built environment of your submission. Environmental park is now a far more appropriate name for the activities in this park. The information panels are a great help in creating awareness of what is happening here and in explaining what is meant by biodiversity, a sensory garden. The adjudicator is especially delighted to read that the apples trees came from seed savers. Well done on your research. The stone with what we will call Celtic motifs and the benches and picnic tables add further interest. The information on coppicing is another stand out feature. There are so many aspects to this place in a relatively small area as for instance a wetland area. The adjudicator did not go through the gate that presumably led to your wood walk and he regrets this. The fact that there was a farm gate and no sign at the gate bothered me even though the boots were on and ready to go. Make sure that the adjudicator and wildlife enthusiasts feel welcome to visit. The adjudicator also admired your Green Space, as an extension of your environmental park. Well done. Discourage the use of weedkiller as it impacts very badly on your wildlife ideals.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

The list of projects in your entry form show that you are making some progress with the sustainability category. Note that the first three listed relate to recycling which is by now a basic denominator in this category, but still a vital element. The supply of water butts means that you are attempting to manage an important energy source. Is there any possibility that householders could also be encouraged to use water butts. With the introduction of water charges residents are more likely to be attracted to purchasing them at the next sale. Adjudicators are always delighted to read that the local schools are involved with the Green Flag movement. Well done to them. You might supply more information next time on the number of Green Flags achieved by the schools. This adjudicator would love to have been supplied with more information on the content of the '20 hour course on environment related matters'. Have there been concrete results arising from this course? It is difficult for the adjudicator to increase your mark, and there is vast scope for increasing that mark, in this section. As a priority for next year examine the Tidy Towns handbook chapter on sustainability. Take a look at 'First Steps' and the chapter on 'reuse' as examples. But try to have freshened your approach in this category for next year's competition. And remember that most groups find this the most challenging section of the competition.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

One gets the impression that the area from the Church to the post Office has been given a major facelift in recent years. The walls, the footpath, the well marked parking, the lanterns, the black paint on the railings of the school barrier, a fine timber fence, the fine appearance of the gates into the Gairdín an Phobail, the new stone wall at a junction and its fine path, the bollards combine to create a beautiful, clean, ordered appearance. Well done. Now your rose bed will contribute to the tidiness aspect of the village. The presentation of the houses in the village adds to the tidiness. But take care not to let the old Church grounds deteriorate any further. A white and red pole is a pity. As some of the surfaces are rough the adjudicator is pleased to read that the new sewerage scheme has been sanctioned. There are sheds on the way in to the village whose appearance could be improved without a major investment. Hopefully this will lead to further improvement of the village appearance. Well done on the measures that you mention with regard to litter awareness and control. As a result of your vigilance there is very little litter to be seen. The Bring Centre is clean.

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

This village has gone through a transformation in its residential housing in recent years. Soon your population will land you in the B category as those new estates flourish. The traditional housing along the approach roads and the farmhouses are the main features of your residential. These still contribute handsomely to your housing stock and are a lovely feature of the village centre. The attractive designs, the care expended on front gardens bring vitality to the country roadsides. Páirc Chuimín is barely mentioned on your map and could easily have been overlooked. And what a disappointment that would have been for the adjudicator for this estate has many features that make it a most attractive place of residence as in the manner in which the twisting road opens up new vistas all the time unfolding more houses, delightful hedging and varied hedging, open space with the goal posts, a tennis court, a playground and other clusters of secluded housing. The black painted sleepers and stone pillars with the down lighting is most unusual and admired. A delightful experience. Mountain View estate offers a different type of experience but one that also pleases as one readily gets an overview of the desirable housing from the start. The open space is an outstanding feature of this estate and creates a great sense of space. One also is aware of the lovely bright atmosphere in the estate. The adjudicator wondered if the gravelled surface on the three landscaped beds was a good choice as the gravel creates an untidy appearance when it spills onto the road.

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

Every time one came on a group of houses on the way to Kilcummin one felt that they had arrived and then suddenly one is at the heart of this rural village. Then the namestone confirmed that this is it. Maybe you could adorn that stone with some planting. If arriving by the Church rural becomes urban all of a sudden and the rural is

allowed flourish, as is appropriate. Then the rural stays with one for longer on the GAA approach. The Tralee road is marked by the fine footpath that stretches for some distance. There is a different personality to the approach road from the cemetery with the informal path and the grass verge most attractive. The adjudicator attempted to visit the Mass Rock but gave up eventually. In next year's map write down the distance to the rock from the village centre. The advantage of travelling this road was that one got to see the fine houses on the top of the hill.

Concluding Remarks:

Any TidyTowns group that has achieved so much in its village centre can feel proud of such an achievement. They can also feel confident that success should be the outcome of any further projects they undertake.