

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killorglin** Ref: **341**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **283**
Category: **C** Date(s): **14/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	46	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
TOTAL MARK	450	269	283

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Céad fáilte roimh Killorglin TidyTowns go Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara na bliana 2015. Thank you for entering the SuperValu TidyTowns competition yet again. Thank you for your entry form the contents of which were enriched by the many photos for the various competition sections, for your maps, though the adjudicator would prefer one map from a driver safety perspective and your 3 Year Plan. Have another look at your approach to the map bearing in mind that its purpose is to facilitate the adjudicator while on his visit. I was not sure of the purpose of the highlights sheet as the content was already in the submission. The adjudicator was well versed in the affairs of Killorglin before ever reaching the town. Well done on the list of agencies and the relevant personnel who support your work. The adjudicator liked the idea of stating briefly the support that the various agencies provide. A new group for me is included among the Community Organisations that help, Woman 2000. Not to be outdone the Mens Shed provide gender balance. Schools will be pleased that they are mentioned individually and they deserve that recognition. The businesses mentioned also play a valuable role as described by you. You are a relatively new group but you have certainly earned the respect of your community. Your priorities impress the adjudicator. There seems to be no mention of winning prizes. The gold that glitters for you is definitely: "áit bhreá chónaithe a dhéanamh de Chill Orglan". Go méadaí Dia sibh.

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

One could easily form the impression from reading your submission that this is a town of many distressed buildings that are in dire need of repair and that the built environment of Killorglin will not be a pleasure to travel through. How misleading. So the many works you have undertaken are making an impact. Some 'before' and 'after' photos give an inkling of the transformation. There is no need for me to list those works. You have done that adequately but the adjudicator acknowledges the work done. And while one imagines that many a resident has cursed that hill on an icy January morning, that hill gives great scope to the buildings perched up along to show themselves off. The best treated gable end in the county proclaims itself and gives one the time of day for good measure. There is respect for traditional buildings but modern designs are valued also. Nineteenth century and modern are blended beautifully as at the old railway station and the Fexco development. There are eyesores, to quote your own words. But there could be many more eyesores were it not for some creative approaches as at the Old Mill and the building across the road or the Future is Bright building up the street or at Sullivans. The adjudicator loved the low key treatment of the pump on the way to the Pier and delighted in the tone of the information panel there. Business and sporting bodies add a further layer to the quality of the built environment of Killorglin The GAA complex suggests the pride of the town in their football teams. While the Catholics may feel miffed that the Church of Ireland should be given pride of place, there is no doubt but the design of that Church has a flair that is most unusual and is most attractive. That is not to downplay the appearance of the Catholic Church and its environs in town. It is pleasing to see that a church building on the street is put to meaningful use, if not the use of the original construction. While religion and

sport are well catered for there are other aspects of Killorglin life whose lodgings are appropriate as in the Panto group and the Killorglin Archive Society and in the Family Resource Centre. The building which is home to the Citizens Information Bureau, Killorglin Adult Education Centre and the KYCMS adds to the built stock of the town centre. Scamps and Scholars and the Community College are wonderful buildings. Apart from Fiacloir and ÓFoghlú the adjudicator saw very little trace of the Irish language.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

In Killorglin landscaping is no longer for appearances only but also with the wildlife in mind for consideration. What the adjudicator liked was that roses still bloom in many locations, planters are full of colour, the main roundabout in the town is ablaze with colour. So summer colour is valued in the public realm. As well as that businesses believe that they must catch the eye with their hanging baskets and window boxes as is the case with Nick's. Estates entrances are adorned. Alongside that seasonal activity there is the tree planting that is obvious on one of the approach roads, the renewed tree planting at the playground although the adjudicator was cross to observe the vandalism in this instance. The natural tree growth that adorns the town is a striking feature of the town and especially delightful as one crosses the bridge. The bridge area celebrates the Puck heritage and the Puck importance to the town in the sculpture. It also celebrates the access to the river in the delightful landscaping. More permanent planting also abounds with shrubberies here and there as on the New Line Road. The adjudicator loved the use of the sleepers as kerbing in this manicured area in the midst of the natural wilderness. The front of SuperValu and Boyles are examples. The town square or town plaza can rival any for the multi dimensional landscaping, people dashing here and there, others looking on chatting, others visiting the Tourist Office or the Kerry County Council offices or the Library. The adjudicator loved the modern Killorglin as well as the traditional. The adjudicator also enjoyed the car parking area opposite the Catholic Church, the roses are a real treat.

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

A browse through your website shows how seriously you take this category of the competition but more importantly how proud you are of your rich wildlife heritage and how determined you are to conserve it. The swift population must be the birdtalk of Killorglin. The adjudicator loves to read of tree planting with nature as a consideration. He loves to read of the creation of a green highway or of a rethink of planting in the playground. The art work in this playground must help create awareness among the kiddies. But an outstanding feature of your work is the emphasis you put on creating awareness: 'a clear and informed view'. What distinguishes Killorglin from other towns is that your submission does not deal with the youth only. Involving the Men's Shed creates awareness among those men of what is happening at a non-carpentry level in the town. The photo of the biodiversity talk shows adults only and all interested. Then the art work at the playground stimulates questions and awareness among the younger folk. And the potential in Killorglin for an introduction to a rich biodiversity is obvious from the trees to the river to the bay to the many walls and ditches. Ballykissane Pier was like a concert of birdsong and the upgrading out here is bound to attract people from town. You are to be complimented on commissioning a Biodiversity Action Plan and your plans and actions seem to be driven by the contents of this plan. Hence we see that the workshops are continuing as interest in your wildlife is stimulated. In particular the adjudicator loved the idea of a guided river walk. Sadly the adjudicator could not find what could be termed a safe route along the river. He wondered about the track out at Ballykissane Pier. It seemed like an ideal location for a walk but he feared he might meet an angry farmer or worse, a bull. Good to see that you are aware of the presence of Japanese Knotweed on the river bank and that Kerry County Council have intervened.

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

Killorglin TidyTowns could be an example to many more experienced groups around the country of what can be achieved in this section. Your multi-pronged approach to sustainable living is admirable. What stands out most for the adjudicator is your emphasis on waste elimination while at the same time going through the other gears of the waste pyramid. Your ambitious programme of creating a Green Community in Killorglin would have been unheard of a few short years ago. But with astute contact with various agencies and professionals in their field you are creating that Green Town. The beaming smile of Kate Moroney expresses the pride of your town when accepting the Community Green Flag award. Another feature of your work that impacted on the adjudicator was your follow-up to the Living Sustainably course. The awareness project that followed that course is often the missing link with the rest of the community in spreading awareness. Well done to all. Your 3 Year Plan also indicates that you will be imaginative and practical in your work in the future. The waste audit you propose is a major and tedious task but one is certain that you will see that project through also.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Yet again in this section you are working like dogs to ensure a clean, healthy environment for all who live here or visit. And for the most part your efforts are reaping rewards. Much of the untidiness would come about as a result of the natural changes that occur in a small town like businesses closing; residents passing on and leaving a premises to children who are resident far away; austerity making appearance a secondary priority; new businesses arriving on the scene and insisting on their tacky signage as a precondition to setting up; an area that is a work in progress as in a fence on the Glenbeigh Road. But you are working on the appearance of buildings and that work is apparent. Of course there are some distressed buildings in prominent locations. Hopefully, time will change those. The adjudicator was almost weary from reading all of the approaches you have to keeping Killorglin litter-free. Well done. These litter free and awareness endeavours may be TLC for the streets but are a challenge for the workers and volunteers. One would expect that awareness programmes would help. You have such and they do help so can you imagine the state of the town were it not for the TLC activities. 'Keep Killorglin Clean' echoes throughout the town. Well done. But there is litter all over from the pier to the playground, from the butts on the street to the

bottles in an estate. But the amounts are not very significant. You will be pleased to read that the adjudicator did not encounter any dog fouling so well done.

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

Your submission and map went to great bounds to list all of the estates in the town. This adjudicator prefers to wander about and see for himself. But what did impress is that you seem to have a hands-on relationships with each estate. Shrubs very often soften the entrance to estates and in general the walled entrances are most attractive. Open space is cared for though on one or two occasions the adjudicator felt that grass could do with more attention. Keep an eye out for graffiti in one estate. One gets a wonderful view of the delightful colouring of the housing in Laune View as one crosses the bridge. The older estate is very well maintained though built at a time when there was no need to cater for parked cars. The estates are one element of the residential in the town. The private houses on the approach roads also make a valuable contribution to the welcome that one gets when touching down in Killorglin. The housing on the Dingle Road adds to the interest on this route to the bridge. Houses on a minor road as that to Ballykissane are most attractive. One wondered if there are many residents actually living on the street as it is difficult to figure. It was the Irish on the stone for Páirc Uibh Raitheach that brought the adjudicator into that estate not realising the surprises that would greet him. And a President of Ireland visited also.

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

Fáilte go Cill Orglan is a treat as on approaches on the main approach roads. Your activities in the approach roads section made it easy to motor from one road to another and leave none excluded although there is no mention of the adjudicator 's favourite approach road, that from Beaufort. The tunnel of trees and the mystique created by those trees gave this drive an enchanted feel. The Dingle Road is remembered for the fine footpath and fine wall. The Killarney road is distinguished by the wilderness that conveys one in and out of town. But briars growing through the fence on this road as one approaches the bridge must be an annoyance to pedestrians. The thriving ragwort at a site on the delightful Sunhill Drive is a pity. The houses and the entrance to estates create the excitement on the Glenbeigh Road as one leaves town. The Glencar road is highly residential with estates from an earlier era holding their own with the modern estates. The ugly concrete boulders that you mentioned in your submission were spotted and could do with a drive from a JCB. One back area that did not impress is the road along the boundary of Scoil Mhuire. A lot of neglect down here in an area that provides parking.

Concluding Remarks:

The professional manner of your submission suggested that this is an active group working hard on the issues that face the residents and visitors to the town. The visit did not find the TidyTowns people wanting. Wonderful work is being done in Killorglin, much of it behind the scene but much of it apparent as one rambles about. Signs on there is the hustle and bustle of activity all over the town, akin to the hustle and bustle of yester year mentioned at the pump. Ait bhreá chónaithe is a balanced approach to entering the competition.