

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmoyley** Ref: **2111**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **252**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	29	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	25	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26	26
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>252</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Na fáiltí geala roimh Kilmoyley TidyTowns Committee go comórtas SuperValu TidyTowns na bliana 2015. Thank you for your entry form, the book of photos which represents activity in the village throughout the year, your most helpful hand drawn map with the location of all of your projects highlighted and described succinctly, and the copy of your newsletter. Thank you for also for the invite to contact you if necessary but be assured that such contact is not normal practice for the adjudicator. But thank you. The first notable point about your entry is that 28% of the population of Kilmoyley are on your committee. That statistic in itself deserves congratulations. One also notes that 25% of that committee is comprised of under 18s. Another statistic worthy of note. Well done to those younger people for becoming involved, well done to the people who conditioned those younger people to join the committee and well done to the committee who understand the value of youth involvement. For a group that have been entering for just 4 years you have come a long way. Delighted that you value the target setting that the TidyTowns competition creates for you and that the competition has helped increase your sense of pride in your area. Feicim nach bhfuil faillí déanta agaibh ar an nGaeilge, ach oiread. Is maith ann sibh.

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

Kilmoyley could be described as an area rather than a village connected by buildings that are part of rural community living. At one junction the main building is the Church and cemetery. This fine building is beautifully presented, the dull limestone brightened by the floral displays of summer colour. The cemetery is also respectfully maintained, as is the old cemetery down the road. This latter cemetery has a fine wall surround and a surprising amount of roses and other flowers showing respect for your forebears. Across the road is the Tochar Bán, another fine building whose sign could do with a little uplift. At another centre of activity there is the school and Community Centre, the front porch of which distinguishes that building. These buildings are at the heart of a rural community and beautifully presented also. On then we go to another corner of this square and we find the shop, post office and the fine hardware store, the commercial centre of Kilmoyley. At a busy junction. Landscaping plays a major part in enlivening this junction. The Music School is signalled by its sign and looks very well. Just seeing the sign for Rahilly's Forge hints of traditional trades that have disappeared from the landscape. There may be other decaying traces of that heritage around the parish. Finally the people of Kilmoyley display their success on the hurling field with their wonderful complex at the final junction. The entrance is tastefully treated and entices one inside. Each of these areas has buildings that are fit for their purposes and each is presented appropriately.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The wild Irish ditches form an important part of the landscaping of Kilmoyley. That natural vegetation is embellished by the green fingers that provide landscaping schemes all over the area and by the residents of the many houses

that contribute their own colour and texture to compliment the green countryside. One happens on a corner here that has been softened by a raised bed of flowers, at the Church tubs of summer colour surrounded by a centre piece are delightful, window boxes brighten up another corner, ivies on a front wall attract the eye in another location, planting along a farm wall at Lerrig, tubs of begonia decorate the new cemetery front. Even the GAA entrance is honoured with flowers. Your treatment of the Bring Centre is a delight, the art work a special attraction. All of these spots of colour add interest to the journey. You can be justly proud of your achievement at the corner of the junction by the Church over the past year. The design, the benches, the planting, the backdrop combine to form a garden worthy of any village centre. One is pleased that your planted beds spring directly from the soil and are not raised. The imagination and skills that are so evident at this junction are also required at the Post Office junction where a corner could be transformed if you tackled it. Well done on maintaining and decorating your tobar which was once the news centre of Kilmoyley life. It is a delight and settles naturally into the ivy clad wall nearby.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:**

The mallard sign lets us know that something is about to happen. Those signs are a charm, well done. The appearance of the lakeside is an unexpected landscaping dream but that is not your only purpose. This is a meaningful wildlife project. One wonders have the ducks been imported or have they been there since time began. They look very much at home. And the insect home and butterfly bistro. Well done to all involved. Your next project now might be a few log piles places strategically. Continue with your engagement with the Tralee IT. That survey gets to the heart of the matter. On the way to the cemetery there is a spot of the Gunnera, make sure it is controlled. Discourage use of weedkiller. There is one noticeable example in a prominent place.

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

The adjudicator noted in the earlier part of your submission that you believe involvement in TidyTowns has increased an awareness of environmental issues among the residents. That awareness would be particularly true and relevant in this section of the competition. Your "10 Steps to a Better Environment" is further proof of that awareness. When you encourage people to "Coinnigh Cill Mhaoile Glan 's Néata" you are not referring to litter but the wider environmental issues also. 9 of those 10 steps are at the core of the aims of this competition. Well done. The adjudicator is a little disappointed that there is no mention of this category in your Plans for 2015. On the positive note well done for inviting the Environmental Area Officer to talk on respecting energy, water and waste. Did many attend this lecture? Have there been outcomes? Does your group plan any new ventures as a result of that talk? In other words do not let those words of wisdom fall on dry ground and wither. The youth are a major element of your TidyTowns drive. So it is wonderful that you mention the school in the context of its Green Flags. Credit is due to all involved, school authorities, parents and, of course, the real drivers of change, the pupils. I see that there is fun involved also for everyone as in using recycled clothes for the Hallowe'en party.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

It is difficult to define tidiness in a rural setting such as this. The demands of everyday agricultural activity do not lend themselves to the definition tidiness might have in a different setting. And the fulfilment of those demands are what keeps this rural community ticking over. The wild hedges and ditches that landscape those roads are what make the area tidy. They are natural to the area, they are fodder and forage for the wildlife of Kilmoyley. Do not interfere with them. A new house will inevitably change the tidiness dynamic. Thankfully most of the homes meet the demands that are made of them: maintain your front boundary, enhance the surroundings with their colour and leaf texture, keep their front clean and weed free. The finger sign posting at the Church junction signals the standard of appearance that these people aspire to. Front walls whose painting has been neglected detract from their surroundings. Be on the look out. Likewise house fronts that need weeding are a challenge. Gates can be a problem for a TidyTowns group. As long as the gates keep the animals inside then the farmer is happy. The TidyTowns committee might have appearance priorities. One value of gates in such a spread out area is that over a period of years, as the gates are replaced, farmers might be encouraged to paint them a certain colour. That would bring a unity to this spread out area. The surface of a road is a concern but what does one do. The adjudicator is pleased to say that there is very little litter about. Well done to the farmers and their control of the black plastic.

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

The fine appearance of the school and the Community Centre, the condition of the GAA complex suggest that this is a healthy growing community. The housing supports this view. There are houses everywhere, new, older and old. This is a lived in area. An estate even with two delightful name stones that reflect times past. Drive on with the planting of the designated areas in The Old Forge Road. The hedge planting is encouraging in this estate. The grass maintenance outside the estate is appropriate and marks the entrance to the estate. One hopes that the second estate will one day fulfil on its promises. But the houses dotted all along the roads are full of colour and vitality and enhance their areas. Well done to you on your treatment of some of the houses no longer fit for purpose. Your art reminds us of everyday scenes and the people who lived those scenes. It is sad to see some places deteriorate but in rural Ireland living and dying does not apply to people only. This village reinvigorates itself.

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

This section in a sense does not apply to Kilmoyley as it is impossible to distinguish between roads and approach roads as one might in a town situation. What we do know is that the roads are bounded by lovely natural hedging. There are speed limits which suggest village limits. One expects that over time the Kilmoyley sign will be honoured in some way by distinctive landscaped beds but one sees immediately the important issues that would accompany any such plans. The Fáilte go Cill Mhaoile at School Cross is an example of what will be achieved.

**Concluding Remarks:**

The Irish phrase that sums up your work could be: Is maith ann sibh. You accurately state the value for Kilmoyley of being in this competition: 'It provides our group with targets and a focus'. The adjudicator is certain that you have other targets in the pipeline. Spend an evening dreaming on how you would wish Kilmoyley will look in ten years time. Spend some time also deciding what you do not wish for your area in ten years time. The road map is the cliché nowadays. You are the kind of people who will make things happen. Kilmoyley is in your safe hands.