

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockanure** Ref: **1149**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **258**
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	251	258

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Congratulations to Knockanure TidyTowns Committee for entering the 2015 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition. Our wish for you is that your participation in the competition assists you in your ambitions for this delightful village and that your association with the competition continues to benefit Knockanure. One gets the impression that your involvement in TidyTowns is driven by a few members of the community who are determined to maintain their efforts through thick and thin. Well done to those few who continue to plant flowers, maintain the grotto and clear litter and one's wish is that such example will stimulate the interest of others. The most hopeful note in your submission is that the younger folk are being made aware of their environment through the school. Maintain that connection with the school. When your entry form was first opened I felt a frustration on seeing the map. Then an awareness grew of two maps and what a wonderful help both of these were to the adjudicator, one gave me an idea of where the village was situated in the universe, the other guided me through the village and led me to your projects for the past year and what should be visited. Mind you it took a while to find the memorial plate to the three local men. One wishes for you that you can entice others to give a hand in getting their fingers dirty for Knockanure. Your determination is admirable.

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

The major challenge for a TidyTowns group in Knockanure in this section is to maintain the appearance of the buildings on the street and to ensure that appearances do not deteriorate no matter if the building is occupied or not. Your submission suggests that the Community Centre is at the heart of all that happens in the village. How appropriate that such should be the case and how appropriate that it should look so well. The Church and belfry are of a recent design and the adjudicator thought that the inside size of the Church suited the small village, it being intimate and prayerful inside. Its outside provides a delightful contrast to the usual decorative Church design. The understated stations seemed to fit the non fussy inside design. The school is beautiful presented. At both ends of Knockanure one came on graveyards which were not mentioned on the map. A pity as these graveyards are very much a part of village activity. Both are devoutly maintained, the stonewall on the older one being a part of your heritage that must be cherished. The text alert sign shows that there is organisation to this village and that neighbours do care. The grass on the GAA pitch is a bit of a mystery.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Nature does most of the landscaping that is required in Knockanure. There are so many hedges all along the roads. A noticeable feature of the hedging is the honeysuckle growing through the hawthorn. A delight and a source of nurture that could also be considered under the wildlife category. But where nature is found wanting residents have given a hand with lovely landscaping in their gardens. Houses at the junction bring life to their surroundings with the

wonderful window boxes. Approaching from Moyvane there is a beautiful bed of varied colour and varied texture on the left hand side. In other cases, as at the landscaped beds at the new houses, pay attention to the weed growth. Your submission tells of hedging that has been grown recently and it is great to witness the replenishment of the hedging in various places, as across from the Community Centre. One would like to contrast the colour at the Church with the flowering at the grotto. The Church front requires the same green fingers that express the joy of summer at the grotto. Those two tubs do not celebrate either the joy of summer or the promises of eternity so this adjudicator would advise that you rethink your landscaping design and priorities for the Church front.

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

One senses a fatigue in your approach to this section. While it is important that the school children be made aware of the riches of their surrounding biodiversity it is important also that the adult population be aware and understand their responsibilities towards nature. It would be great if the GAA helped out with a plot for a wildlife garden. You mention experts in the wildlife field. Do you have any in the community who would stimulate you in this section?

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

'Only too aware' is what this category is all about. Creating awareness of conserving our energy is your goal and the people of Knockanure seem to be supportive. Water and transport are the areas you mention and these are most important. Maybe you might add 'food waste' to the list for the coming year and help the TV ads to make the people of Knockanure aware of the amount of food that is wasted and of methods to control this. Last year's adjudicator mentioned composting. This is a definable and manageable practise in which you might stimulate an interest.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You score very highly in this section and you retain your mark. Good to read that you registered for the national clean-up and it seems you got support from the community. Of interest to the adjudicator is that you avail of the road sweeper. That machine is crucial to ridding the roadsides of the inevitable build up of tiny debris which can destroy the appearance of an area. Along the Community Centre the road surface presents a problem for the driver. The overall impression is that of a sense of care to the village.

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

Residents in a small village are at the coal face when it comes to the appearance of that village. Fortunately for you those residents take great pride in their houses and their front gardens. On the street houses that are bedecked with window boxes or hanging baskets light up their buildings and the surrounding buildings. One way of improving the appearance of the main street is by the use of window boxes, especially. The appearance of the six new houses provides a challenge to the appearance of the street. At this stage there is a need to weed and to paint at that location. Hopefully owners are aware of their responsibility to maintain their properties in a manner that enhances the entire village. The houses on all sides on the approach roads bring a colourful personality to their area. Opposite the Church there is a lovely bungalow with a box hedge at the front. Keep the grass under control so that that hedge can express itself and thrive.

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

The adjudicator started the adjudication from the graveyard at the Moyvane end feeling that that graveyard is an important element of the local community. Thankfully it was not expected that you would tend to the verge all the way to the village core. But the landscaping started as soon as the 50 was reached. What is noticeable is that there is fine hedging for miles, hedging that provides for birds and bees. That hedging is noticeable on the approach road by the Community Centre. Here there is attention also to the grass verge which creates a tidy impression. There are opportunities for improvement on the Listowel side of the village.

Concluding Remarks:

One can understand how challenging it is to keep at it year after year especially if support is a bit patchy. But as you stand back from your work surely you get a sense of satisfaction. The adjudicator did not mention a 3 Year Plan as he feels that it would only discourage you. Work from year to year and hope for the best. As the writing at the school proclaims: Ní neart go cur le Chéile.