

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killyneill** Ref: **2119**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **209**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	25	26
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	25	26
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	25	28
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	6	7
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	23	24
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26	26
TOTAL MARK	450	197	209

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome Killyneill to the 2015 tidy towns completion and we are very pleased to see that you are anxious to build on the progress that you made in 2014. We were amazed to read that your committee has grown in size to 14 members – which seems to be a massive increase on the 3 members alluded to the 2014 adjudicators report. Clearly, the work that your committee are doing is appreciated and supported by the wider community. Well done on forming links with the county council and other groups through the tidy towns network. Why not contact Fas and the local leader partnership for further advice, funding and assistance. It is noted from your application form that you have involved the school in your work we wondered if there is one in your village? Certainly none seems to be shown on the map that you submitted. Thank you for your completed entry form as it was helpful during adjudication. However, like the adjudicator in 2014, we had difficulty locating your village as it appears to be sign posted Tyholland or at least part of it seems to be very close to Tyholland. Would be possible to get some name signs put up? Perhaps this matter could be discussed with the Council. Consider also preparing a three-year tidy towns action plan. This would enable you to identify projects under each of the tidy towns headings and it will ensure a balanced approach to your work and it may well earn you extra marks under this category!

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

This was the first time the adjudicator had travelled to Killyneill and we enjoyed visiting the canal (which runs adjacent to the N12 road in the village) and the Church, which is a lovely historical structure finished in natural stone and render with a distinctive bell tower. The graveyard in the grounds of the Church also looked well and it appears to be maintained to a high standard. The old stone bridge over the canal was also admired. Like the adjudicator in 2014, we observed some derelict properties (the shop at the crossroads and the building beside the housing estate) in your village and we note from your entry form that you have written to the owners of these buildings to request that they tidy up their properties. It is recommended that you contact Monaghan county council and seek assistance on this matter as they have powers under the Derelict Sites Act to compel the owners of derelict buildings to take remedial action. The committee is commended on its comprehensive maintenance programme which keeps the Church, the graveyard, the car park and canal bank looking their best. We note from your application form that you propose to provide a decorative bus shelter and we look forward to seeing this in the years ahead.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The landscaping provided on the approach road to Killyneill from Monaghan is most impressive. We liked the tiered planters that could be seen in the nicely maintained road verges with their seasonal flowering plants. The hanging baskets which adorn the street lamps provide a burst of summer colour and the natural hedgerow boundary to the road was admired as it gives a distinctive rural character to your village. The pleasant seating area that can be

found at the crossroads is also considered to be a nice addition to Killyneill. The planted bank at the canal (opposite the entrance to the Church) is considered to be most attractive with a broad range of trees, bushes and flowering plants on show. We are delighted to read that the committee is continuing with your treeplanting programme as the benefits of this project will be felt now and for generations to come. Your proposed projects under this category are also acknowledged – which include clearing the shrubbery and priors and canal embankment (to provide a view of the canal lock) and we were interested to hear that you intend to restore the canal lock in time. Perhaps this project could be discussed with the local leader partnership?

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

It is noted that no projects have been undertaken under this category for this year but that a wildlife audit is planned and that it is proposed and store nesting boxes bat boxes along the canal. However, we are interested to read in the 2014 adjudicators report that there is a community garden in your village and we wondered where this could be found? Perhaps this could be included on the map in 2016? In addition, while this adjudicator was looking for your village, an interpretive sign for Killyneill bog was spotted (some distance from the village) and we wondered if this was a tidy towns project? Perhaps some details could be provided on this in 2016? We concur with the previous years adjudicator and it is recommended that the completion of a wildlife survey is the best starting point as it would enable you to identify the most appropriate wildlife projects for your village. Why not seek the assistance of local schoolchildren when carrying this out?

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

Your committee is advised that the tidy towns application form that you submitted in 2015 has been revised and that the sustainable waste and resource management category now has a higher priority in the competition with a total of 50 marks allocated to it – which is the same number as the built environment, landscaping and wildlife categories. Therefore, it represents an excellent opportunity for your village to improve your performance in the competition. Well done on growing your own plants and seeds in the local community garden. Please let us know if you make your own compost, harvest rainwater or use recycled materials in your planters and other landscaping schemes. Why not engage in some joint projects with the school that achieve waste minimisation and elimination in your community? Further ideas for suitable projects can be found in the tidy towns handbook.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We are pleased to report that your village was almost litter free during adjudication and this is an excellent achievement given the numbers of vehicles that use the N12 on a daily basis. Litter could only be seen in one location – which was the corner of the car park opposite the Church. It seems clear that your weekly litter patrols are having a positive effect! We are also delighted to see that the local schoolchildren get involved in your efforts and we urge you to continue to involve them in your projects. Your plan to install no litter signs is also acknowledged and well done on maintaining overgrown hedges and trees in the village. Despite this great performance, some improvements are still possible. The timber fence that adjoins the canal may need a coat of treatment in time for 2016 and the pedestrian gates to the Church would also benefit from paint for next year. Like the adjudicator in 2014, we wondered if the small bollards and chain along the canal was necessary – is this an attempt to restrict access? The Church car park was also a little untidy looking due to the presence of weed around its perimeter. The entrance to the industrial facility (Glaslough Peat) could be improved as it has rough surfacing and untidy road verges.

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

We visited the small residential development adjacent to the industrial facility and we were most impressed. Although no name was visible (and we were surprised to see that it was not included on your map!), the modern houses with their wooden cladding looked very well. The green areas within the estate were very well maintained and we loved the colourful brown planters that lined the access road in. Impressive landscaping schemes could also be seen on the green area which comprised perennials, evergreens and young trees. Aside from this impressive estate, the standard of presentation of the small number of houses in your village was generally good.

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

It is noted that the issue of road signs that was referred to by the adjudicator in 2014 does not appear to be resolved. At present (like last year), the name sign on the primary access road to your village (the N12) is Tyholland while the sign for Killyneill can be found at the crossroads pointing away from your village. This is most confusing for visitors and it is strongly recommended that this issue should be addressed with Monaghan County Council as soon as possible. If it is not possible to resolve this in time for 2016, then it is recommended that your village should be described as Killyneill (Tyholland) on your tidy towns entry form until the issue of road signage is addressed. We fully concur with the comments of the adjudicator in 2014 who recommended that speed limit signage should be placed on the boundaries of your village with village name signs alongside them.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on another good performance in 2015. Be sure to take the adjudicators suggestions on board when deciding on your projects for 2016 and we look forward to seeing your village again next year.

