

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilteevan** Ref: **2189**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **249**
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
TOTAL MARK	450	249

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Kilteevan is most welcome to the 2015 Tidy Towns competition for the first time. We very much hope that this will be the beginning of a long and enduring relationship. Tidy towns can provide the structure needed to bring communities together in a positive way to get things done. You have made a tremendous start already and in particular you seem to have the whole community behind you. It will be important to try to maintain this enthusiasm and sense of inclusion. To harness this energy it is recommended that you prepare three-year plan for your village. This would simply identify the projects you would like to see completed over a longer term so you can think about the steps needed to reach your goals. Do refer to the tidy towns handbook before embarking on this task as it has lots of useful information. Consider also reaching out to other tidy towns entrants in your locality and see what you can learn from their experience. You have established good contacts with support agencies and these links will come in useful if nurtured. Your communications are also vital and it is good to read that you are employing a range of tools in this regard. Local papers are especially handy for promoting any successes as well as advertising events. That you have a youth liaison officer in place already is wonderful. Don't confine your work with young people to actions surrounding litter. They have a lot to contribute and in all likelihood have their own ideas for projects to benefit the area. Do tap into their creativity and energy, especially when exploring your built and natural heritage. Use your map to clearly highlight the locations of projects by including a key on the page itself. The adjudicator walks around with the map as part of the judging process. This is a great start for Kilteevan and we are excited about the future direction of your community.

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

This category is concerned with the presentation of your built heritage. The painting of the railings is an excellent example of how a simple project can make a big difference in this regard. The adjudicator could see from the OSI map that there is a holy well, a mass rock and an old church in your vicinity. These artefacts are part of your story and it is wonderful to note that you are keeping this story alive through raising awareness of your heritage. Your project to highlight the history of the mass rock is exactly such a project, well done on this. The adjudicator is also looking at ways in which you promote the use of Irish. The community centre and school provide the main features of focus in Kilteevan the flowers in the wellies on windowsills at the school really brighten the building along with fresh flags waving in the breeze. The heritage signage is clean and informative. The intricate artwork on the ceiling of the community centre is a very special point of interest. The small pump across the road is nicely painted. The new church is well presented and the wooden planter is very effective here. The cemetery is a beautifully tranquil spot that is clearly well cared for. The ruin at its centre has been sensitively preserved and your heritage info is very useful in explaining its significance. The Tom Cruise connection was certainly unexpected! Paddy Finn's bar is very striking with its stone facade and inviting outdoor seating. Well done on this impressive presentation.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

It is welcome that you have sought advice for any future planting. Remember that in rural locations such as this is the main landscaping features are the fields, trees, native hedges and stone walls. Your interventions should be sensitive to this and enhance them wherever possible. Displays of flowers at the crossroads are very effective. The raised stone bed with bog wood is a nice combination. Aim to use perennial flowering shrubs over annual plants for year-round impact. Hanging baskets are best kept for doorways and you use them to good effect at the grotto. They are less effective on roadsides, particularly where there are already attractive tall trees etc. Do try to eliminate the use of herbicide. It leaves unsightly dead vegetation, is probably carcinogenic and is very bad for the environment. The planted bed and heritage sign for the Kiltewan House Gate Lodge is really excellent and you use a nice selection of plants here. The work at the cemetery road junction is a great improvement. There is no need to over prettify these areas with flowers however as the surroundings stand on their own. The mass rock was visited but it couldn't be seen. The area tidies up here has been effective. However cherry laurel has been a poor choice as it will out-shade the regeneration of native plants in this hedgerow. Do try to remove these saplings before it is too late. If you want to plant along this bank it should be native hawthorn which is of landscape and wildlife benefit.

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

This category aims to encourage groups to engage with their natural heritage. Before doing anything therefore you should spend some time learning about the features in your locality that are wildlife habitats. These are closer than you think. Native hedges are especially rich in plants and animals. Check www.npws.ie to see if there is anywhere that is protected for conservation close by. Putting up bird boxes can be good for some types of birds. Have you checked to see if yours were occupied? That you heard a corncrake is very significant. Until recently the banks of the Shannon were among the last places where this critically endangered bird could be found, but it has not been present in a few years. Be sure to let Birdwatch Ireland know in future years if it is heard again and find out what can be done to help conserve the bird. The little stream is an important wildlife feature. There is no need for landscape planting here as nature does all the heavy lifting for you.

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

You are correct to start in the 'war on waste' by addressing your own activities. Reducing paper use is one important step. You can also cross-cut into other categories in ways you highlight such as perennial planting and rainwater harvesting. It is excellent that you attended a composting workshop and do update us and how your findings were used to promote composting in the village. The school could contribute significantly by taking part in the green flag program. The first flag in this series is waste but water management, energy and biodiversity are all subsequently explored. For helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Maintaining a clean and tidy place to live continues to be a chief priority for people. It is unfortunate that you have to deal with illegal dumping, work with the authorities first and foremost to stamp this out. Your initial litter collections have been very successful and hopefully in time you will not need to gather so much. Maintaining regular patrols is likely to be needed in the long-term. Well done to Robert Owens for his wonderful poster and the powerful message it sends! We certainly all have the power within us to make changes that make a difference to the world around us. No doubt your 'adopt a road' will ensure that initial success becomes embedded in the long-term. There are no major issues to highlight under this heading in the town is very tidy indeed. Litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard.

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

The painting of gates, field entrances etc is an excellent way of enhancing the presentation of an area at low cost. The many homes surrounding the crossroads were admired for their high standard of presentation and many attractive gardens and stone wall surrounds were admired. Do encourage residents to retain these traditional boundary features and in particular the planting of native hedges which blend with the landscape.

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

Roadsides have been well maintained and hedges on the mass rock road are appropriately cut. The beautiful name sign on approach from the main N63 was admired. A little further on extensive herbicide spraying, close to a stream, has left unsightly dead vegetation. Aim to rehabilitate this area with brambles and other native plants that grow nearby and which provide resources for bees and other insects. Grass cuttings are being dumped in the river and this will pollute the water. A more sustainable area for disposal should be found.

Concluding Remarks:

We are thrilled that Kiltewan has joined tidy towns and this is an exceptionally strong first entry. Is a beautiful place thanks to your work and commitment, do keep it up!