

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilteevan** Ref: **2189**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **283**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	34	35
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	24	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	274	283

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Cill Taobháin chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Kilteevan TidyTowns is very welcome to the national competition this year and we thank you for your application. In relation to your application perhaps you could consider printing it double sided next year and stapling it together rather than putting it inside the plastic folder. This will save on paper, reduce the need to use the folder, reduce postage costs for you and the TidyTowns Unit and make it easier to use by the adjudicator during the adjudication visit. We like how you laid out your submission and it was easy to follow – no changes needed here. We were delighted to read that you have gained additional committee members this year and enjoy support from a large number of volunteers throughout the community. We thank all of those involved in your projects. Having never visited Kilteevan before, we knew from the minute we arrived in your village that you are an active group but were very surprised to learn that this is only your 4th year in the competition. The level of presentation and the volume of projects conducted to date is more akin to a competition veteran. A collaborative approach is a key element to achieve success in this competition. By sharing information, resources, activities, and capabilities we can achieve things together that we could never achieve alone. Therefore it is very positive to read the long lists of agencies, bodies and businesses that support your activities. You are communicating well through various mediums including texts, social media, local press, community newsletter etc. You should also consider setting up a Twitter presence to network with other TidyTowns committees. You are missing out on marks under this category as there is no mention of a multi-annual TidyTowns plan although it is referred to in your adjudication report from last year. A summary of this plan should be submitted with your application every year. Finally your adjudicator felt that you had included a very large area to judge and you should reconsider the village boundaries.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The national school looked very well with various colourful planters and its Green Flag on show. The Community Centre is a wonderful facility for your community and you have the grounds looking so well. We note the gate restoration project and the water font that has been gifted to the TidyTowns group, which has been repaired and is now in place. Nearby, Ash Park playground is a marvellous facility and was being enjoyed by some children when we passed by. Paddy Finns Pub was looking well. We visited the graveyard and seen the restorative works that had been completed this year. You mention a TidyTowns shed but we didn't locate it perhaps this has not been installed by the time we visited (?). The Pioneer Hall was noted.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

This year you have spent considerable effort in developing and implementing a Pollinator Plan for the village and carried out a number of actions. The wearing of homemade dandelion badges at all your events was a novel way of

initiating conversation about the importance of planting varieties suitable for pollinators. We thank those who have cared for the Grotto and statue so lovingly. Furthermore praise is due to Mattie Murphy whom we understand carried out a great deal of drainage work to ensure the site was suitable for planting the Mountain Ash.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

We travelled Cloonlarge looped walk by car as time would not allow adjudication of this large looped walk by foot. There has been substantial work carried out in relation to the passing bays, tree trail etc. and we note that this was officially opened in April 2018 – Congratulations! We really liked the ‘Kilteevan Heritage Trail’ information signage and how fortunate you were that these photos were all documented by a knowledgeable local who has been walking the loop over a number of years and gave you permission to use them. There are many positives about this loop walk including the incorporation of heritage and local history, the wood carvings and other signs of interest that can be read by walkers. The wildflower areas were in full bloom and a host of colour. It is positive that you are including the Guided Walk within the programme of the Roscommon Lamb Festival and we suggest that this continues yearly, if the interest is there. Registering this event with the European Year of Cultural Heritage was a shrewd move that facilitated you in the use of the EYCH branding, local and #Europe for Culture. You have also been working on a project funded by Local Agenda 21 funding which you have entered for the Water and Communities Award. This project – Kilteevan River – Our Living Heritage is another project where you have forged partnerships with various agencies. The area at the river is a tranquil resting place. We could not find St. Bridget’s Well, perhaps a small fingerpost sign would be useful or describe the location for next year’s adjudicator; however your entry form has described how the cleaning of the well came about through discussions with the Community Water Officer and morphed into a water awareness and conservation project.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

Congratulations to the pupils of the national school who have been participating in the Energia Ireland and GIY Get Ireland Growing initiative. They must have been both proud and excited to appear on RTE in relation to this year’s launch. Once people begin to grow their own food they realise the time and resources required. This hopefully makes them value in season produce, understand the implications of food miles and waste less food. EPA statistics tell us that the average household in Ireland throws away €700 of food each year. The Stop Food Waste Challenge could of interest to members of the committee. You have learned a lot from the Voice Ireland workshop, now you can cascade your learnings to other members of the community. You have started to raise awareness about single use bags; this could be extended to other single use items. Thank you for supporting Roscommon TidyTowns Conscious Cup campaign. You should also consult the free Sustainable Communities Toolkit developed by The Wheel and the EPA which should be of assistance. This category is all encompassing and you can promote a wide variety of initiatives. Are you aware of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? The SDGs are being promoted as a means of encouraging all people across the globe to make the right choices now to improve life, in a sustainable way, for our children and for generations to come. Keep them in mind when considering projects.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We gather that you are in the process of establishing a TidyTowns area beside the Bridge as we noted the start of composting units. We wonder what the rest of this area is going to be used for? Perhaps this area is a privately owned site but we thought it looked rather untidy between the neat Community Centre and the Church and playpark complex. When we visited it was time for your Sunday morning service, parking at the Church is rather haphazard and the church carpark would benefit from a parking policy or demarcation of parking spaces. Perhaps you could plant hedging at the old farmyard walls.

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

Houses along the roadside were all good with neat gardens and colourful flower displays brightening a number of facades. Residents are to be commended. Pay attention to the boundary presentation and verges as a number of boundary walls of residences would benefit from painting.

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

Road surfacing is generally in very good condition and we liked the light-up speed sign making motorists aware of their speed. A number of cyclists were spotted and we noted that the Green Heartlands Cycle Route bisects your village. You directed us to Clooncraft where we noted the milk stands – your adjudicator considers this to be quite far out of the village centre but notes this is on your Heritage Trail. Gate restoration could be undertaken in a few other places including near Paddy Finns Bar.

Concluding Remarks:

We are delighted to learn that your involvement in the competition has increased your sense of pride and developed a sense of community empowerment. We believe it is a competition for all, young and old and all ages in between. This would appear to be the case in Kilteevan and we congratulate you all for a wonderful community effort this year. We wish you well for the year ahead and hope you can sustain this momentum.