

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildavin** Ref: **1147**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **251**
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28
TOTAL MARK	450	251

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Congratulations to Kildavin Development Committee for entering the 2014 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. Our wish for you is that your participation in the competition assists you in your ambitions for the quality of life for the residents of Kildavin and assists you in your Tidy Towns ambitions also. Thank you for your entry form and for the very effective map of the village. The adjudicator loved your laudatory comment on the contribution that 'blow ins' make to the Tidy Towns work in the village. One hopes that the natives do not take umbrage! What it means is that the newer residents of the village feel welcome to make a contribution to the life of the community. This is what the entry form refers to as social inclusion, a worthy aspiration and achievement. You are getting support from agencies to fund your projects, very good. Liaising through social media is ideal in that it reaches the younger people in the parish. Well done on your engagement with the school and on the bird boxes. You have not been involved in this competition for many years but it is heartening to read that there is a perception that Tidy Towns is aiding the appearance of the village. Great to read that involvement has helped generate confidence that your community can help itself in the challenges that face it. The adjudicator liked the manner in which you have described your involvement with your community and with the competition. A little tap on the knuckles: what about a 3 Year Plan?

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

Like other villages Kildavin faces many challenges in the built environment section of the competition. Many of the most prominent buildings in the village either no longer operate as a business or are unoccupied. This situation proves difficult for people who have grown up with an ingrained vision of the place they live in. But the pride expressed through the maintenance of unoccupied buildings or the change of use to residential for the newsagency, for example, shows the pride that people have in Kildavin. Then there are the iconic buildings of the village as in the Churches and their graveyards, the school, Conways, the Community Centre. All are presented beautifully. You mention Spellman Hall. The adjudicator felt that the grey paint on the walls and the bright red on the doors gave the buildings an air of authority, most attractive. But there are other aspects of the streetscape that the adjudicator also enjoyed. This is an agricultural village. Farm buildings have been traditionally an integral part of the village. Now they are maintained with dignity. The weighing scales are treated with a respect that your forebears would demand for the assistance it gave the farmers in the days leading to fair day. So here is a village in a state of change but holding on to its appearance through creative hard work.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Those buildings mentioned above are given great support by the landscaping that colours every corner of the village. Out on the N80 the floral displays invite the passer by to visit. In the village many of the residents hang

baskets or display window boxes full of colour. Then there is the formal work that you have engaged in over a period of years. Tree planting is an annual event. You mention plans for a herb garden. Great and the village garden already can boast of a herbal element. The adjudicator loved the variety of surfaces on this village garden. The adjudicator loved the boxes of flowers that dotted the village, sometimes to highlight an area as at the pump or graveyard but often just for show. Your use of dwarf and ground colour roses is admired. Hydrangeas seem to be another signature plant of Kildavin. A village pump holds a special place in the lore of any village so it is great to see it honoured in such a prominent position while commemorating 1798 also. Only God knows what ye will do with €2,000 when one sees and enjoys what you achieve with meagre funds. Keep an eye on the shrubbery up at the school as some of the shrubs are beginning to out grow their space. Also a gap has appeared up near the gate. The adjudicator loves the use of granite pieces as kerbing for raised beds.

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

The adjudicator loves the emphasis your committee puts on planting herbaceous plants as these are of most value to the welfare of rural wildlife. I enjoyed the grasses and enthused about the variety of shrubs. When landscaping it appears that you give consideration to the food and shelter demands of wildlife in the area. The adjudicator saw but did not examine the bird boxes at the fence. They look very attractive. The worry of the adjudicator concerns their value to the bird life in Kildavin. Explain in next year's submission how these boxes impact on the welfare of the birds. There is an enthusiasm in the work of this committee that I would like to see expended to a greater degree in this section. Get advice and assistance as to what your next step is in matters wildlife and what you might achieve in say three years. Contact the relevant personnel in the Carlow County Council. Did you get advice about planting on the banks of the stream? Such banks can be the natural habitats for a variety of wildlife so tread carefully. This adjudicator wishes to see you create awareness among yourselves as a committee about the flora and fauna that are native to Kildavin. During the winter reach out and educate yourselves before taking on further projects.

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

Well done on the water butts. The adjudicator did not want to be caught nosing about behind the hall but trusts your word. What is the plan for the water? It must be used instead of piped water if it is to benefit our resource management. There is a confusion between litter and waste management in your submission. Litter does not belong in this section except in the context of segregating litter after clean-ups. The dog fouling also belongs in a different section. Last year's adjudicator mentioned attendance at a biodiversity workshop and the intention to develop plans as a result. There is no mention of these plans in this year's submission so what happened? The adjudicator spotted the Green Flag on the school grounds. That achievement is worth mentioning in your submission. Hopefully work is now under way to achieve another flag. The adjudicator admits that he is a little concerned at your progress in this section and just as in the case with the wildlife section feels that you need to reach out for help. What happens to all of the grass that is mowed? Do ye compost?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The dog fouling signs could not be missed, even by the most unreasonable dog owners. As in this litter category generally your signs seem to be paying dividends. Or at least something is working as there was very little litter apparent on the streets or in the estates. The adjudicator loves your plan with the green foot steps. That is an awareness project that should remind people not to drop their rubbish. Regrettably people will drop so there is no escaping daily patrols. Now that there is not alot of passing traffic one would expect that at least litter from passing cars is not a problem. Signs are clean, great. There was one not so clean. But road sweeping is a bit of an issue at times. If you do not have access to a County Council roadsweeper then you will have to be creative with the brush and shovel. Glass broken in the vicinity of the Bring Centre causes unease. The recycling sign could do with a rub of a cloth.

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

The first impression on arriving from Myshall was that those houses on the left need floral displays of some sort to bring them to life. Further on the houses have hanging baskets and window boxes and these displays, added to the fresh paint, lift the heart. The new houses opposite the school would also benefit from window boxes, as has been done by two of the residents. Many of the private homes add to the lushness of summer colour with their gardens, Kinsellas being a case in point. The green area at the entrance to Crowsgrove is a delight. One was delighted to find sweet William in full bloom in here. One was also delighted with the presentation of what is a relatively old estate. A fine residence was espied when in the car park of Conways, fabulous design on the building.

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

When I first arrived from Myshall I have to admit to having been underwhelmed. The use of the weed killer bothered me. But by degrees I thawed as the trees came into view and the treatment of the open space in front of the houses impressed. Then suddenly one is in town, eyes wide opened by the various treats. After the school the grass verge is mown and the hedging creates the rural appearance. The elevated position and the hedges help to seclude houses up here and their views must be panoramic. When we came off the N80 on another occasion the view of the mountains was a delight. Great care is evident along both sides of the road here. At this stage the adjudicator knows that this is a loved and cared for village. The houses on the graveyard approach road provide the key elements of personality for this approach. Opposite the Hall your work is admired again, a wonderful wall of granite with the indented seats. That whole area is a visual joy.

