

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildavin** Ref: **1147**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **266**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	255	266

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Kildavin is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your entry form and map. Your group is becoming established in Tidy Towns and it is great to read that you think participation has been of value. Your hand drawn map of the town is very good but do highlight the special locations where works have been carried out, e.g. with a numbering code. Your plan did not seem to extend beyond the current year. Ideally the plan would be set out under each of the contest headings and contain specific actions rather than broad-stroke goals (although the goals themselves are good). You have good links with all the relevant support agencies while involving the school is particularly valuable. Do try to liaise with them on one or two projects each year. Photos are welcome as part of the application but these should be in support of particular projects and clearly labelled as such.

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

Rather than a descriptive piece on the features of the village (interesting and all as this is) the adjudicator really wants to know what projects you have been working on since our last visit. The lovely school was admired on adjudication day with its green flag and splashes of summer colour. The church is similarly well presented. The church of Ireland is a beautiful building with carefully maintained surrounds. Conway's was being renovated on adjudication day and it is clear that the final product will enhance this well known landmark in Kildavin. The old weighbridge is a fascinating relict while the striking garden is wonderfully maintained.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The rolling hills with the fields and hedgerows are the linchpin of the landscape in Kildavin. Maintaining and enhancing these should be the foundation of your planting plans. At the school/church car park shrubbery is of variable quality. Brambles are encroaching on some spaces while many of the beds look tired or have large areas of exposed soil. Do aim for consistency after thinking about the kind of impact you are hoping to create here. The 1798 monument is a strong feature for the town but the plants in containers are badly wilted while the pump needs to be cleaned. The tourist information panel is of an attractive design and the deer looks good. It is being swamped by the growth behind it. This should be cut back to give it some space, thereby drawing more attention to it. Half barrels of roses and geraniums work very well in creating impact along the road. Phenomenal specimen oak, horse chestnut and Sycamore trees were admired in a farm just off the main road. The graveyard is very well maintained and its abundance of fresh colour really caught the eye.

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

It's fantastic to read that you are undertaking actions in support of the pollinator plan. This year the biodiversity data

centre released a version for homeowners and gardeners while it also has a junior version. So there are opportunities for everyone to get involved. The River Slaney in Kildavin is part of a special area of conservation and it is important that the community recognises its value in this regard. Perhaps contact the local NPWS Ranger to arrange a walk or talk to explain its significance. You are clearly already familiar with many of the species in this area so do keep your focus on awareness raising of the wonderful nature that is all around you. Taking a stand on herbicide use is of enormous importance. Despite this there was quite a bit of evidence of herbicide use throughout.

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

The schools green flag achievements are of immense value in this area and warm congratulations on their progress to date. Your work to promote rainwater harvesting is great. Recycling is a given these days so the emphasis needs to be firmly on waste reduction. Do research on what the school has been involved in and see what projects could be emulated across the community. For more 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:

Well done for taking part in the national spring clean. A photo or two of what was achieved would have been welcome. As you identify awareness raising measures are also important in ensuring that litter is prevented in the first instance. The bring bank was very clean on adjudication day. Surrounds do need to be swept of bottle tops and broken glass however. The village was very tidy on adjudication day however and litter control was to a very high standard.

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

The estate across from the graveyard has no name that we could see (this was identified as Crowsgrove on your map). Its fine homes were admired. Recently planted trees are not all doing so well, dead ones should be replaced. Rope should not be used to support trees as the friction can damage bark. Use old tights or rubber from a bicycle tube. A cluster of homes near the road underpass were also looking well on adjudication day. Some trees on the green space would breakup all the straight lines.

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

The approach from the N80 is clean with well trimmed verges if lacking in colour. Stone walls are fantastic features in Kildavin and its surrounds. A particularly fresh one was admired near the bus stop. On the approach road with a graveyard an impressive line of lime trees is maturing well.

Concluding Remarks:

Kildavin is making good progress in the Tidy Towns contest and you are commended for the significant work done to date. We look forward to returning 2017 to check up on progress.