

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildavin** Ref: **1147**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **274**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	39	40
Streetscape & Public Places	50	34	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	39	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	22	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	270	274

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kildavin Chill Damháin chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your submission, it was great to receive your entry. For a small village you have made great links with many other community groups. Also it's really important to work with your local school as so many of your aims are the same and this will be the source of Kildavin's future Tidy Town's committee!

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

Kildavin's streetscape looked well kept on adjudication day. The surrounds of the church, graveyard, school, cemetery and Spellman Park are all very well maintained. One thing that did strike this adjudicator was that the streetscape lacked a bit of colour on a sunny June day. It struck me that there could be a bit more colour in the planting of the 1798 memorial and in the small plant beds between parking bays outside the school. Make sure to obtain a copy of the very helpful document entitled 'Pollinator Friendly Planting Code' which is available free to download at www.biodiversityireland.ie The list of suitable plants is very long with something to suit every situation and will provide you with lots of ideas for future planting projects.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You mention both a Community garden and a village herb/veg garden in your submission. Neither are marked on your map and we couldn't find either place on the day. The only garden we found was the lovely Wildlife garden on the site of the old ball alley. Is this the community garden? It's a lovely spot with some unusual planting that is quite structured focussing on grasses and long leaved plants. The bank in front of the school features a lot of mature shrubs which don't provide much seasonal interest. Perhaps over time these could be replaced with more interesting shrubby and herbaceous perennials? The list in the Planting Code mentioned above will give lots of inspiration. The planting along the wall opposite the Spellman Hall is very attractive and will only improve over the coming years as it matures. Well done on this project. This area may even provide cuttings for other parts of the village in the future too.

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

You mention your plan to phase out the use of herbicide over the next few years. While none was noted on adjudication day please avoid its use as it completely goes against the Tidy Towns aims of improving quality of life and enhancing biodiversity for all Kildavin's residents – wild and human! We need to seriously think about our use of pesticides in Ireland in general – their use in small focussed places where manual weeding is unfeasible or in the

eradication of serious pests such as Japanese knotweed is understandable. However, long strips of dead brown vegetation that used to be green is most unsightly so it just might be that herbicide use is not actually needed in many cases! You clearly cherish pollinators and biodiversity in Kildavin as two beehives were spotted on the roof of your Community Hall – this is a great initiative and we would like to know more about this project which we presume is carried out by local beekeepers. Please let us know how it is getting on next year's submission. The other piece of good news was that a swarm of honeybees was also noted by the adjudicator under the eaves of Spellman Hall in addition to the busy hives so honeybees are clearly happy in Kildavin! Your plans for a walkway from the village to Spellman Park sound great and we look forward to this development in the coming years. As suggested by last year's adjudicator you could expand your pollinator-friendly habitats by letting grass grow longer in various areas around the village. This can help greatly with the work involved with mowing these areas and you may be surprised at what wildflowers spring up. While at www.biodiversityireland.ie also make sure to download your free copy of the Community version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan if you haven't already. This will guide you on the best spots to start up wildflower meadows and how to manage them. It is great that you are aware that the River Slaney is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC 000781) which means it contains habitats that are of Europe-wide importance. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is the State body which looks after our conservation areas so make sure to consult with them if you have any plans.

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

Well done to Kildavin National School on their Green Flag and their work on sustainability. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator take a look at localprevention.ie/tidy-towns for lots of ideas and inspiration for projects on the sustainability theme for Kildavin.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your continued participation in the National Spring Clean Event and working with Bunclody Tidy Towns on your busy linking roads. Kildavin looked very clean and tidy on adjudication day. Well done in your efforts here. Your newly located recycling centre does need a bit of help to 'prettify' it! How about an appropriate mural painted on the large blank wall of the club house behind it- if of course Kildavin GAA club are happy for you to do so!

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

Everywhere looked well maintained on adjudication day. As suggested above it might be an idea to allow some of the larger grassy areas to convert to wildflower meadows through less mowing.

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

Some approach roads would lend themselves well to pollinator-friendly approach we encourage whereby the verge next to the road is mown leaving the grass and wildflowers to grow unhindered closer to the hedgerow or wall. This has worked well on many approach roads around the country. See the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for details.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on all the work you do for your local community. I look forward to return visits to see how your planting schemes and walkway project develop.