

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildavin - Cill Damháin** Ref: **1147**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **278**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	60	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	23	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	30
TOTAL MARK	470	274	278

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

Cuireann an moltóir fáilte roimh Kildavin Cill Damháin pairt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. We are delighted to welcome Kildavin Development Association to the 2019 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition – your participation is important to us. It was a pleasure to visit your lovely village for the first time. We are delighted that you have slightly increased involvement in your committee. You have the support of local businesses, school, community groups as well as outside agencies such as Carlow County Council. Your entry form was clearly laid out and the photographs greatly assisted the adjudication process. The map is too congested for an outsider to follow. We couldn't figure out exact locations too easily so perhaps a larger version next year (A3 Max). Also, please name all major approach roads and submit your 3-year Plan if you have one. You use the traditional channels to communicate your message and word-of-mouth is a highly effective in such a small community. You make smart use of social media as well as traditional communication channels to convey your messages to the wider community. We gather that there is strong community spirit in Kildavin. Keep up the good work.

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

The new path linking the village to the GAA grounds will be a wonderful addition when complete. The school and grounds are fresh and inviting. The R.C. Church and grounds to the rear of the school are well maintained. The nearby water pump feature looks well and is simply landscaped. Conway's Pub occupies a prominent corner position – the red umbrellas provide a good contrast to the freshly painted colour scheme. The car park is maintained to a very high standard and we admired the mature trees there by the outdoor seating area. All was in neat order at the small commercial premises behind the pub (limestone business?). The beautiful Church of Ireland building is one of the villages highlights. Spellman Hall is in neat order, thought we felt better name signage would be helpful (perhaps the building is listed and prevents this?). The signage at Kinsella's former shop is in good order and gives a sense of character to the village streetscape. The graveyard is beautifully maintained. Well done for securing playground funding. We hope you succeed in your site search soon and look forward to hearing of further progress next time. Please also update us on any progress in relation to any derelict properties (you mentioned a derelict house).

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You are paying good attention to detail in this category and are striking a good balance in consideration of your rural setting. We admired the high banks of wild flowers on the approach roads while rose beds provided a sense of arrival and identity. Black containers of roses throughout the village give a lift the 'street' and provide a sense of cohesion. The bed along the fence near the school is well – you mention that there is a plan to overhaul the

landscaping here so we assume any gaps will be addressed then? The Community Garden was admired as was the colourful bed of perennials opposite Spellman Hall. Near the by-pass bridge, you might consider planting a rose bed in front of the small housing development (no name) as the one across the road looks a little lost. This would bring some symmetry to the visual impact and soften the effect of the hard landscaping opposite.

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

We are glad to note that you are taking on actions contained in the National Pollinator Plan. Many of these are simple yet can be very effective. The Bee hotel at the unnamed housing estate was noted. We can see that you are conscious of not over maintaining grass verges. The verges of wildflowers not only look beautiful at this time of year but offer a valuable food source for our struggling pollinators. We commend you on your efforts to phase out use of herbicides, which can potentially cause a lot of harm to our wildlife and environment. The pollinator-friendly planting was admired.

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

Following on from last year's drought, many groups including Kildavin are keenly aware of the importance of conserving water and use harvested rainwater for watering plants in summer. Getting the children involved in tending to the fruit/herbs/vegetables at the community garden is a good way of promoting sustainability as other areas such as water, energy, packaging and chemicals can also be addressed. In this way, the parents are also involved and made more aware. Please tell us next time which Green Flag theme Kildavin N.S. is working on and how that links into your Tidy Village activities. Have a look at www.localprevention.ie or other Tidy Towns groups to come up with a few additional ideas under this category. Keep up the good work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We get the impression that the residents of Kildavin take great pride in their village. The whole area was very clean. Well done to all involved. Two small pieces of litter were noted. Dog fouling was not an issue on adjudication day. The GAA Complex is relatively neat – however a little attention could be paid to the tidiness of the car park area as there are a lot of various items lying around, giving a sense of untidiness. One broken road sign was on the ground on approach to the school from the N80. Perhaps the 'pig pen' could be painted soon, in a colour to match the door and 'window' of the adjacent historical 'weigh station' building.

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

Residential areas are presented to a high standard. We admired the beautiful flower display beside the house opposite the church. Kildavin has a few small housing developments. Glassheen looks like the most recent development – it is nicely finished and neat in appearance. This was the only residential area where we saw a name sign. It would be helpful to have similar signs (bilingual) at the small development beyond the community garden and at the larger area opposite the graveyard. We look forward to seeing the redevelopment of the corner site in the near future – where demolition has recently been carried out. Well done to all involved.

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

Your links to the N80 are lovely and very much incorporated into the village. First and last impressions are impressive. We get the sense that work is ongoing to maintain but not over-manicure your verges and natural hedgerows. Good car parking was noted near the school, with some clever landscaping incorporated. The 'authorised access only' sign here could do with a cleaning. We noted work in progress on the new footpath to the GAA complex. Hopefully this will enable your younger residents to walk safely to activities and cut down on car journeys. Road surfaces and markings are good as are the visitor information signage on the history and heritage of the building. The landscaping at the sign across from Conway's could be reviewed so that visitors can avoid walking on the earth in order to read the sign. Directional road signage is very good, though we felt a sign to the GAA field from the village would be of benefit.

Concluding Remarks:

You have a lovely village that you are showing to its full potential. We congratulate Kildavin on your efforts to date and wish you well with future projects.