

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Kilcrohane - Cill Chrócháin	Ref: 595
County: Cork(West)	Mark: 319
Category: A	Date(s): 14/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
TOTAL MARK	550	310	319

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór.

Welcome to the Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition for 2022. We thank you for your entry, and wish you all the best in all your future work. Good luck.

Kilcrohane Cill Chrócháin, a small village with a population of 150 people – has entered the competition for 20 years and has a committee of 6 members with support of another 12 volunteers.

- The committee is supported by most residents who attend the meetings.
- Support is received from a Pobal/Tidy Towns and Cork County Council.
- Your Newsletter and the local Facebook page are used for communications.
- The voluntary work undertaken by Kilcrohane Tidy Towns helps to clean up the village and make it look good for the summer.

The hand-drawn map provided with your Entry Form was clear and easy to read. It would be good however, to provide a legend on the map giving a precise description of the various works/projects completed and have these numbered on the map.

The quality of the application form which has been completed by hand is good and the adjudicator had no difficulty reading the writing included under the various categories. Scanning pages separately gave rise to some issues for the adjudicator trying to navigate through the document and it would be better if the Entry Form could be emailed in its entirety as a simple word document. We are however, aware that this approach doesn't suit everybody and the facilities for doing so are not available to every Tidy Towns Committee.

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

- The main projects mentioned this year on the entry form include the installation of paving and lighting at the school, Eileen's Bar and O'Mahony's shop with all the works completed by Cork County Council.
- The adjudicator visited Kilcrohane on a very warm sunny morning in July. The presentation of private properties, footpaths, boundaries, approach roads etc. conveyed a strong sense that Kilcrohane is a community where local residents take great pride in the appearance of their village.
- Of particular note was the wonderful National School building painted in a bright blue colour, which caught the eye on entering the village. There was bunting already in place in preparation for the Kilcrohane Carnival taking place later in the week. The Old Creamery premises looked very inviting and the overall colour scheme here and presentation of car parking area was greatly admired.
- The Church is a very attractive stone building located in the central part of Kilcrohane village and this is

enhanced by a well-constructed natural stone wall boundary along the road frontage and a nicely maintained garden area and burial ground. The stone wall was enhanced with occasional floral displays.

- Significant work has been carried out in Kilcrohane over recent months as part of a village improvement scheme, undertaken by Cork County Council. This has included installing new paved areas at the school, Eileen's Bar and at the post office. A footpath and public lighting have also been installed from the village centre to the playground. Natural stone kerbing, extended paved areas, stainless-steel bollards together with traffic-calming measures have all helped to transform the village core, making it much safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The adjudicator was particularly happy to note the provision of a large number of bicycle - stands in front of the National School.

- The 'shared surface' footpaths seem to be working very well. The post office premises have been enhanced by these improvement works as has Eileen's bar and both of these properties now have outdoor seating areas facing the road. The small gravelled area fronting the stone out-building beside Eileen's Bar could be enhanced with a new gravel surface here.

- There is a narrow-stepped pedestrian access to the stream situated on the opposite side of the road from Eileen's Bar. Perhaps a small seating area to avail of the tranquillity and sound of running water here, could be provided as a future project.

- Wooden poles and overhead cables are visually prominent in the central part of the village and it would be good to provide for the undergrounding and removal of these, if and when funds become available.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

- You have not submitted any information under this category as the scanned page was not included with email submission. Do try and complete each category in the entry form. You are doing good work and it would be pity not to have some of this work noted.

- The adjudicator called to the Community field for the village, which is planned as the site for all the activities associated with the village Carnival celebrations. This area named Páirc an tSéipéil is a wonderful enclosed open space, providing the local residents with a small playing pitch, adult exercise equipment and other community facilities. In the future it would be good to properly surface the perimeter path in the park to provide a looped walk, which can be used for walking and outdoor exercise purposes. The committee should consider reducing the amount of grass cutting here in order to provide for the establishment of wildflower meadows and wildlife retreat areas. Regular grass cutting can be confined to the pitch area and 2m wide strip along the footpaths. The use of 'managed for wildlife signs' would be important in this regard.

- The Kilcrohan playground area was also visited and this is wonderful amenity for the young people in the village and surrounding areas and your committee is commended for the standard of presentation and maintenance achieved here.

- Reducing reliance on annual bedding schemes for your floral displays is an important initiative for you to consider in the future. Colourful perennial and pollinator friendly plants e.g., Alstroemeria spp. can be used to very good effect as an alternative to the flamboyant but labour/water and energy intensive annuals such as Begonias and Petunias.

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

- You have not submitted any information under this category as the scanned page was not included with email submission. Do try and complete each category in the entry form.

- Your committee may be aware that the New All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) 2021-2025 has now been launched and it is particularly concerning that one third of bee species in Ireland are now threatened with extinction. As well as this Plan, useful guideline documents are now available to Tidy Towns committees to increase the numbers of pollinators in your local area, including guides which are specific to local communities, farmers, councils, transport corridors, sports clubs, businesses etc. Different 'How to Guides' are also available showing how to establish pollinator friendly planting schemes, pollinator friendly roundabouts, use of 'Managed for Wildlife' signage etc.

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

- You have not submitted any information under this category as the scanned page was not included with email submission. Do try and submit each category in the entry form

- Water conservation is an important topic under this category and you might consider options for using harvested rainwater for the watering of your floral displays.

- Other areas worthy of consideration by Kilcrohane Tidy Towns Committee for the future under this category includes the composting of gardening waste and use of re-cycled or up-cycled items in your activities, which reduces the overall quantity of waste produced by the community.

- The development of small electric microgeneration schemes for Wind, Solar and Hydro in partnership with the Local Authority could be considered and these may also attract suitable SEAI or Leader funding.

- You might look at the provision of public e-car charge points in the village and suggest suitable locations where these could be provided in the short term.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

- We note that you committee undertakes weekly litter control and the bottle banks are in use to recycle items.

- The area in the vicinity of the bottle Banks was inspected and these banks are neatly placed behind low stone walls, which reduces their visual impact in the general area. This arrangement has worked very well in the village of Kilcrohane and could be replicated elsewhere. The areas around the bottle banks were found to be neat

and tidy.

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

- You have not submitted any information under this category as the scanned page was not included with email submission. Do try and complete each category in the entry form. The presentation of residential estates and properties and private gardens are important items to consider here. The maintenance and improvement of the local children's playground might also receive a mention under this category.
- The Cois na hAbhainn housing estate was visited and the adjudicator admired the strong growth of long grasses and wildflowers on the open space here. However, to ensure this does not convey a sense that the area is neglected, it would be good to retain a 2 to 3 m strip of closely mown grass along the road edge, which will provide a neater appearance overall.
- The Cois na Farrage estate is an attractive development of colourful terraced houses with nicely finished stone walls and this area was enhanced by an attractive Montbretia planting in full flower at the entrance to the estate.

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

- You maintain the floral displays on the approaches to the village and the new cup and saucer hanging baskets which are self-watering are checked on a weekly basis.
- The approach to the village from the Durrus direction is enhanced by the stone name sign and floral display. There is a concrete post and rail fencing near this sign which would benefit from native hedgerow type planting. The neatly maintained road edges and boundaries create a very welcoming approach to the village along this road.
- The approach to the village from the direction of the Sheep's Head Lighthouse has been improved by the recent construction of a footpath and lighting, connecting the playground area to the centre of the village. The road here has also recently been surface dressed. This approach provides a very attractive entrance to the village, with nicely presented stone walls and natural vegetation along the roadside boundaries.
- As outlined in last year's report grass verges along approach roads can be kept neat while leaving a strip along the roadside boundary as a corridor for wildlife. It is very important that all signage is regularly cleaned and any encroaching foliage cut back. It is also a good idea for all gates on approach roads to be painted in a uniform colour, where possible.

Concluding Remarks:

You have great potential to gain marks across a number of categories in the Tidy Towns competition and the completion of work and detailing future planned projects under all the categories, where possible, should be attempted. We wish you well in all your endeavours for the coming year.