

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmead - Cill Míde** Ref: **375**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **317**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36
TOTAL MARK	550	317

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.

Over the 30 years since you've entered the competition your village has grown from a category A to category B. Once the census results are published it is likely you will move up to another adjudication category due to increased population!

Like many communities your activities were curtailed during the first two year so the Covid pandemic. As you start back, it would be worth trying to organise some activities or walks to raise awareness of your activities and the great work you do for the Kilmead community.

You have a Facebook account with nearly 400 followers. You have shared some lovely pictures of places including the Moat of Ardscull – one of the main areas that your volunteers maintain. Perhaps you can get a volunteer to help increase the frequency of your social media posts and at any walks or talks gather names to form a mailing list so more can be kept abreast of your activities?

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

One of your main areas that you're trying to progress this year is continuity of pavements through Kilmean. Funding has been approved for this and for road enhancements. Let's hope that this work will commence shortly.

The Church looked well, and the school also looked lovely with a great array of hanging baskets. It was nice to see mature trees along the boundaries.

The Post-box and the entrance stone as you come off the main road into Kilmead looked lovely. As did the newly painted concrete railings opposite the church. Your recent efforts have been a good impact. Commercial premises S & CS Ltd were nicely painted also.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The planted bed on the corner opposite the church looked nice, and the roses near the Church grotto were lovely. Similarly, the beds at the entrance to the graveyard looked well. The stone wall here had some nice bits of ferns and other plants growing which would benefit wildlife -how nice to see these. A nice line of mature trees opposite the church behind the fencing made for a good sense of place.

Well done in choosing plants that would benefit pollinators as well as be enjoyable to look at. Have you any

talented gardeners in your community? Perhaps you could organise a seed share event or have an afternoon where you split existing plants to save money and encourage gardening?

We read that you are fundraising to have some raised beds and a composter for the school. Growing herbs and vegetables can be great for children and encourages them to try tasting vegetables that they may not always like. It also helps raise the debate about food miles and sourcing food locally.

The Church car park with freshly painted and we particularly like the fact that everyone was encouraged to reverse park for safety. A tree at the front of the church grounds was dead and should be removed and replaced if possible.

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

You have created an award-winning wildflower park. You invested in this, ensuring that the seeds you bought were native Irish seeds. Yellow rattle was one of the seeds in the mixture you purchased and it's very useful for reducing the nutrients in an area which is ideal for wildflowers. Maintaining a wildflower area is not easy and involves a lot of strimming and lifting of cuttings so you should be congratulated for this. Thanks to your local farmer, John Bell, who helps with the maintenance of this meadow.

There are often natural seeds in the soil so locals could be encouraged to develop their own wildflower meadow without having to buy seeds. There is excellent information at the website www.pollinators.ie.

What's nice to read in your entry form is that many of the residents are copying your ideas and planting herbs, shrubs and flowers that are great for wildlife. The wildlife information boards will be good – as boards themselves are expensive you could collate the information and develop the trail on-line first.

You are proud that many of your community are very aware of the correct timings for initiatives such as hedge cutting or silage spreading. Did you know that many hedges, and associated wildlife, do well being cut on a 2-year minimum rotation?

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

This category of the competition is about reducing our impact on the environment and promoting a circular economy.

Congratulations to the pupils of Kilmead National School for being one of the top schools collecting dead batteries for recycling. The school has also implemented a lot of green measures including low energy lights, wall, and attic insulation, as well as push button taps to conserve water. Have any other community buildings or homes in Kilmead benefitted from grants for similar upgrades to reduce energy use? On adjudication day there was sunshine to generate a lot of hot water by solar panels!

You've made your community aware of other ways in which they can get involved with green initiatives such as recycling waste at St Laurence's GAA/ Community Centre or using public transport. It's great that you have a bus on weekdays. With so many homes in Kilmead you are strongly recommended to lobby for weekend bus facilities especially for local non-drivers (e.g. Teenagers) to visit town.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thanks to the volunteers that have helped with spring cleaning and regular litter picks. Sadly you've had sustained problems with dumping on approach roads but have been working closely with the litter warden to try and address this. You could ask for the community to be vigilant in this regard. Have you shared a phone number so Kilmead residents know who to contact if they see any fly-dumping?

Opposite the Church one of the road signs has been turned around the incorrect way and there's another empty redundant post that needs to be removed.

A sign at the graveyard entrance, referring to permissions for headstones, was very rusty and we wonder if this is still necessary here?

The painting of the entrance barrier into the church car park works nicely. Perhaps you can paint the other barrier fencing here so it blends in more also. We did feel that the instruction signs at the school gate were strong in tone for the village.

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

There were nice trees in the centre of the road at the entrance to Moate View which also worked to subliminally slow down traffic at this junction. We like the ornaments and street furniture in Moate view - some have been added by residents. Are there plans to put a small playground in here as you have the area here already?

St Ita's homes also looked very well and there was nice landscaping at entrance to New Line Grove too. The name stone at entrance to Cluain Ard had some nice flowers - maybe some of the grass here could be allowed be mowed in a new friendly manner?

At the site of the old weighbridge some cycle stands could be provided so children could cycle to here and pick up a passing bus? The traditional wrought iron gates next to the weighbridge site looked well and it is good to have older heritage features maintained.

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

You are in discussions with the Irish Heart Foundation about developing your own Slí na Slainte. A route has been identified. This would encourage people to exercise more, and would facilitate locals who do not drive, or who do not want to drive to exercise, to stay local.

The road towards the wastewater treatment plant has a field lined with Leylandii. These are the tall, non-native evergreen trees that block light and are illegal to buy in many countries due to light blocking at boundaries. They offer little for wildlife and if possible, should be removed.

The road surface in New Line Grove was not the best so continue to lobby to get this addressed. The corner field opposite the church with the nice white fencing, has also got metal chain-mail fencing that's seen better days. Perhaps a hedge could be planted along here?

Concluding Remarks:

Your motto is to 'Make Kilmead a better place to live, work and visit'. In the 30 years that you have entered this National competition you have helped to achieve that. After a brief hiatus, it is great that you are back up and running and well done on your notable efforts over the last 12 months.