

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Killeen An Cillin	Ref: 2273
County: Laois	Mark: 217
Category: A	Date(s): 02/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	35
Streetscape & Public Places	80	30
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	25
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	40
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	25
TOTAL MARK	550	217

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.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Killen Tidy Towns to the competition for the first time. I have no doubt the community will benefit from participation, as so many similar sized communities have. Your submission is a good foundation, so well done. Your strategic plan is good, it is simple yet achievable for you. These are in my opinion the best types. The most successful Tidy Towns groups put a great deal of emphasis on planning so bear that in mind. Your map was a great help, please thank the cartographer. In your submission next year, include a few photographs as the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

It is great to hear that a community survey was completed and that your group was established from this. Having the support of the development committee is also key especially in terms of accessing funding opportunities, all in all a good start.

I am pleased too that you have exchanged dialogue with different sections of Laois County Council. Often the most important work for Tidy Towns group is advocating on behalf of their area with Statutory Agencies, make sure you meet with them at least annually to address any issues you may have.

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

The Church is at the core of the village and is an impressive building, well cared for. C.P. Farrell's has nice frontage. It looks like it is still in business, which is pleasing as so many Pubs didn't open after Covid, I wish them well.

The Community Centre is at the heart of village life. It is an impressive place given the size of the village. It was good to see families enjoying the play equipment on the day of my adjudication. The school next door is also well kept. Please keep in mind that the school setting is a great asset for engaging on environmental issues.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Please refer to the Tidy Towns handbook when selecting plants for the new planters. It has great suggestions on planting for biodiversity and maximising their impact. The green spaces at the Bruach na hAbhann was mowed and appeared looked after. In this competition we advocate for a mowing regime that encourages the development of wildflowers, so again take a look at the handbook in this regard.

The landscaping at the community centre is very good and I was happy to see that the school had planted wildflower seeds, hopefully these will germinate for the kids, if not, get some advice and try again next year

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

There are some great assets in the locality to help your group excel in this category especially the river Crompaun. The three projects you have identified in your action plan is a good start. I would encourage you, if funding is available to engage with an ecologist and undertake a biodiversity and habitat survey of your area. This will help establish the flora and fauna in your area and how best to protect it and enhance it.

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

A Sustainable Community Plan is a good idea and we look forward to seeing the results of it next year. However, there are many simple ideas that can be implemented in this category in the area of reduce reuse and repair. Consider installing a water bottle filling station at the Community Centre or doing a "Gear Swap" day with the local GAA club. The emphasis on awareness raising in the plan is also important. Let us know how the waste minimisation workshop goes next year.

You mention also that over 30 children cycle to school each day. This is fantastic news. Sustainable transport is an important part of this category so keep this up.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thank you very much for organising the clean up and the monthly rota. Litter picking is still one of the most important tasks undertaken by TidyTowns. It requires great determination and tremendous good will to pick up litter after others. It is also very rewarding for the community, so keep this up and please pass on my thanks to all those who volunteered. Next year at the big community pick up, make sure you all have a cup of tea afterwards and make it a real community event.

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

I was surprised by the amount of housing in Killeen. It has clearly brought new residents to the area and I think this will be of huge benefit in the long term. I noted a planning application for additional housing, hopefully this will go ahead and be developed in a manner that is sensitive to the existing residents. Both estates are well-kept so well done to all the residents.

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

The signage to the village is of nice design and very eye catching. The roads themselves are narrow but are of decent quality. However, given the future development of the area will they will in time require an upgrade. I agree that cycling on these roads should be an option, so hopefully this can be incorporated into any future road improvement project. A cycleway as far as the GAA club would be a good idea. Don't overlook this category as approach roads often give the visitor a first impression of the area.

Concluding Remarks:

I was honoured to be the first adjudicator to visit Killeen. I sense there is great enthusiasm and willingness to develop a strong vibrant community spirit in the area. As you grow in this competition, celebrate all your successes and most importantly bainigí taitneamh as an turas!