

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmeedy - Cill Míde** Ref: **223**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **312**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	550	302	312

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair.

Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

Your committee has 8 members supported by 4 volunteers who help with projects. With about 10 meetings per year of the group and twice every week during the busy season you are seldom idle – if ever. Several public agencies support your work and you benefit from having CE scheme workers. Social media is greatly used but you also have newspapers and the church newsletter. It is great that you have links with the school and you both help each other. The specific project where you applied great effort in the past year is the Boreen Walk which we greatly admired. You are 21 years in the competition and have won various awards. Thank you for your excellent illustrated map of the centre of Kilmeedy. Full marks to the artist. The map of the village and adjacent areas was also very useful, but if you could arrange the numbers in a sequence (clockwise or anticlockwise for example), we would be able to find the locations much quicker. You know where they are, so you don't have to take any time to find them. It is always a good idea to show such a map to a stranger and then you will soon find out what difficulties they encounter.

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

Thank you for the information on the works done on Aras íde which was recently opened by Minister Heather Humphreys. The building looks very well and we can see that it is well used for many events. The old Barracks is now being used for more interesting purposes than originally intended. It looks very well. It is great to see the Roots Community shop doing well. The colour scheme is very enlightening – seldom have we see so many houses with such bright and cheerful colours. It is wonderful to see the level of community spirit in your village. Well done to the owner on restoration of the old cottage and it is great to see the Boreen Walk resurfaced and solar lighting installed. St Ita's church is a lovely building, and the grounds are well-maintained. It will be great to have the letters from the 1940s displayed at some future date. The GAA is a large complex outside the village. They have taken a leaf out of your book because the boundary wall is well-painted in white with blue piers. While it is very well done, it would be nice to see some plants growing at the base to soften the hard impact in this rural landscape. There is scope to plant some trees inside the wall and they could provide a green screen in a few years.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We admired the planting and murals on Boreen Walk. The edible hedge will bring back memories to the older members of the community. Further down the lane we came across the wildlife sanctuary where the ducks looked very happy – even with their doll ducks for company. You have provided them with shelter. Does somebody close

their house at night to prevent the fox from visiting. This garden was full of interesting things including a pergola and information boards which were very educational. We assume that visits to here are part of the school programme. We saw some young trees planted there but they are not thriving, and some have died – we suspect that weeds and a lack of water are the reasons. Young trees find it very difficult to compete for water and nutrients until they have developed new roots and established for more than two years. In planting new trees, it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. Also, it is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds, grass and flower beds to ensure early establishment. When trees are established, it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible; they should not in themselves attract any notice. It is better to have fewer well planted containers than a large number in which the quality of plants is inferior. Empty or poorly planted containers are less effective than no plant container at all. If considering more seasonal flowers the use of permanent planting including herbaceous perennials for floral displays is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. The handbook was revised last year and for further advice on this criterion, we suggest you check the information on the following link. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Green-Spaces-and-Landscaping.pdf> The Cemetery is well-maintained, and we were impressed to see the information board with details of the graves and who is buried in them. It is a great idea that is happening more and more throughout the country. The old church ruins add great character to the place, and we note you plan some restoration work there. The stone wall boundary at the road looks very well.

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

Well done on creating the sensory garden and for working with the school on their garden and showing them how to grow vegetables and fruits and how to care for their environment. Many thanks for the extra information on the wildlife sanctuary which it seems is very successful and brings great joy to the community. It is great to see it being respected and not being damaged in any way.

You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the schools or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Nature-and-Biodiversity-in-your-locality.pdf>

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

We visited the Community Gardens which was closed at the time. However, through the fences we could see the range of plants grown there and the level of activity. Thank you for the information. Well done on the proposed community development project. While you are thinking about what to do with it, it was a good idea to plant potatoes – their roots are great for breaking up the soil and making it easier to cultivate. It is good to note that Gearys John Deere Garage has a policy in place for the disposal of oil waste and that Roots Café has several policies in place regarding compostable containers, coffee grinds, and we assume tea leaves, and a composting facility.

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society. Your town can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated. The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is taken for granted). At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. What are homes and businesses doing to tackle these?

There are several other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. Regarding water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

For more information on project ideas for this criterion, we advise consulting the revised handbook which is available at the following link. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is great that you are participants in the Team Limerick Clean-Up on Good Friday and that it was successful. Litter control continues especially with the increased footfall to Roots Café. In noting you are awaiting the installation of new litter bins please note that some communities have decided not to have any litter bins, because of the work in their maintenance. People who use litter bins will seldom throw it away indiscriminately. Members of the committee attended associated workshops sponsored by LCC. The village is swept weekly, and weeds and grass margins maintained by manual means. No doubt you have found the work more difficult since the use of weedkillers has ceased, but it is much better than seeing dead weeds. We found Kilmeevery very clean and tidy.

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

Residents in Kilmeedy have great pride in their homes and gardens and we would like to compliment on their contribution to the overall appearance of the village. We have noted your comments on Fernview estate – the planting at the entrance is very interesting. With three new families taking up residence in the centre of the village, that is a very positive sign.

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

You take good care of all approach roads leading to the village by cutting the grass in autumn. During the growing season you maintain the grass margins and keep footpaths cleared of weeds and dog foul – well done. You also repaired fences leading from the village to Fernview during the winter. Daffodil bulbs planted beside the fences will herald the spring. We liked the 'Welcome to Kilmeedy' written in white on the boulder at the village entrance – it is simple and tidy. The 50 kph signs were clean but one of them was a little twisted. The diamond shaped plant containers on the L1337 approaching the village caught our eye. They are obviously there for quite some time as evidenced by the size of the evergreen plants growing in them. While they are well established, there is little contrast between them and the well-maintained hedge in the private garden and in fact, if their growth is not curtailed, they will in time encroach on the hedge. For those reasons we suggest that an alternative planting scheme should be considered. For example, if the evergreen plants were replaced by shrubs such as Forsythia (yellow flowers in spring) or Hydrangea (pink or blue flowers in summer), or Hypericum 'Hidcote' which is evergreen with yellow flowers in summer, or even a combination of the three shrubs, we feel there would be greater contrast, more colour and strong impact. Of course, that means that removing the evergreen shrubs might not be successful – they would probably not transplant to another site.

Concluding Remarks:

You have a beautiful village, and it is great to see such a proud and active community doing its best to have Kilmeedy looking its colourful best. We look forward to receiving your application in 2023.