

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilteely - Cill Tíle** Ref: **251**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **303**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	35	36
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	296	303

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.

You have a committee of 12 members and an impressive 40 volunteers who also assist when needed and because of Covid19, you meet weekly to do Tidy Towns work. Well done on getting third place in the video competition. With Dromkeen, you were named entrepreneur of the year for the local recycling enterprise, your entry to the national finals in June. The Kilteely Dromkeen GAA club has encouraged the whole community to support your work. You have an annual festival, and you support other projects in the community. You have provided a list of 15 agencies that support your work, including Limerick County Council and private business interest as well as several other groups. Facebook and word of mouth as well as newsletters are your forms of communications, and you have good links with the school. Your special project was on the Emly Road which has enhanced the approach and provided a valuable amenity for the community. This will be discussed under green spaces and landscaping below. You have been an entrant in the competition since 2008 and feel it has been a good experience for the community. Many thanks for the map which was very well-drawn and easy to follow. We have also noted the multi-year plan which comprises 60 pages. It is important that you extract from that plan, the list of projects under each criterion for implementation over the coming years – as finance becomes available. Your application is very well-presented, and we liked the inclusion of before and after pictures.

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

On the way to Kilteely, on the Hospital Road, we came across an old cemetery which is enclosed with an old stone wall. It looked very nice and is well-maintained – in most cases, there are no grave surrounds. We noted the improvement works at the church where hornbeam trees were planted into pits in the concrete footpath. The job looks very well, but some of the trees appear to be struggling so we wonder how often they were watered in spring and summer. New trees need watering for the first two years – after that they should have developed new roots which will seek out water. We have noted the attention to detail in this area – it looked very clean. The church looked well as did the cemetery – we liked the fact that there are no grave surrounds in the cemetery. The London Memorial was admired, his name will live on as long as the memorial is there. It is great you do not have derelict buildings as is the case in other communities. We noted that several premises, including Hanley and Aherns, take great care of their property. There was a great amount of power washing done throughout the village and it was noticeable. The parochial house which is on the National inventory of architectural heritage (built in 1880) is a significant building in the landscape opposite the church. The Community Hall beside the cemetery was well-painted and looked very well.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We were very impressed with the significant raised planting on the L8502 in front of Hillside Drive. It is very well established and is enhanced with the stone wall. We can see that McBreen's Corner is part of your pride of place and a very good location for displaying the redundant farm machinery. The Community Garden was admired - the timber features with seats at each end are very attractive. This is a most unusual and elaborate treatment for a strip of ground, and we were very impressed with the interesting range of plants that are growing there, including a variety of trees. We noted some unusual species such as *Parrotia persica* which will provide good autumn colour and *Cydonia oblonga* 'Champion', the quince. Every designer would most likely do something different and in this adjudicator's opinion, the scheme is a little over the top in regard to the use of gravel. It provides a contrast but in your rural environment, you do not need so much hard surface treatment. In fact, we think the gravel layer is too thick, to the extent that some trees are not thriving. If they were planted at the correct level with the soil and then covered with gravel, then they are now too deep and that may be a reason why some have died. We also wonder what was wrong with grass that it was relegated to the back of the boundary wall where it is clearly seen as not important. The boundary wall is very nice on the outside but why is the back of the wall not seen as important. It is an ideal place to plant herbaceous plants – as you have done on the field side. The plants would then screen the back of the wall and also be seen peeping over the wall. The winding pathway is attractive. However, if the design was simpler and consisted of plants along each boundary with the winding pathway and grass on each side, there would be no need for kerbing on each side of the pathway. The wildflowers were fantastic. We hope the trees establish well and we note you have the services of a landscape contractor to remove suckers, check on the stakes and ties and to do some formative pruning – some of that needs to be done now. We noted the several plant containers throughout the village and especially the pots on the wall of the church and school, allotments wall and on the wall on the Pallas Green road. You have reduced the amount of hanging baskets this year. The white pots are very noticeable and the plants growing in them are looking well and we appreciate that planting and maintaining them is a major task. However, we question whether all that work is necessary. 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. We suggest you consult the revised handbook which is available at the following link.
<https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Green-Spaces-and-Landscaping.pdf>

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

Under this heading you have adopted the 'don't mow, let it grow' policy in certain areas to encourage wildflowers and have included pollinator friendly plants in some schemes. You are following the advice of an ecologist which is great. Regarding heathers, it is important to cut them back every year after flowering to keep them compact and prevent them from becoming leggy. We admired the fine bug hotel Cluan an Fiera, the community garden and were very impressed with the beautiful range of wildflowers growing there. You also maintain bird and bat boxes in the church area. We note that Kiltelly graveyard has started doing an ongoing survey on the biodiversity in the graveyard.

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:

The recycling banks are neatly positioned in a central location where they can be easily accessed. The murals here are a great idea and help to reduce the less desirable appearance of the waste containers – well done. In some other communities, timber screens are placed in front of these containers to improve their appearance. We visited the Jubilee Garden beside the church and were most disturbed by the level of weedkiller being sprayed there as evidenced by the large margins of dead vegetation around the edges of paths and the trees. This is certainly not best practice, and it takes away from the impact of that garden. We suggest that this practice of spraying weedkiller should be totally re-evaluated everywhere in Kiltelly. It seems to be habitually done without assessing the extent of the problem and the band being sprayed gets wider every year. This is not just about harming the environment it is also visually not pleasing.

You are growing your own plants in many cases and including more perennials in your planting arrangements. You use your own compost and leaf mould, and you harvest – estimated to be about 3,500 litres per year. Street lighting is being replaced with LED lighting and new houses have solar panels for saving on electricity consumption. The school garden includes vegetables and herbs, and, in the school, they are working towards a Green Flag for travel. Well done on these activities. 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. 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. Contact your waste contractors

and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, 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. In response to an overuse of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. 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.](https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf)

[ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf](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 participated in the annual TLC Good Friday Clean-up and 40 volunteers turned up on the day to help – 50 bags of rubbish was collected. All collected material is segregated for recycling when possible. At least 3 – 4 times per week litter picking is done by CE scheme workers. Posters and cable ties are removed, and all signage is cleaned. It is great to know that the GAA responded to the 2019 report and removed some signage on their gates.

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

Some private houses and gardens are very well-maintained and even have some low walled areas outside with nice planting. The additional plant containers with colourful Begonias are unnecessary here. In Hillview Drive we noted the large planting with a surround of sleepers at the entrance. The gardens in Cul na Greine have hardly any planting. The open spaces look quite bare and would greatly benefit from tree planting. Also, there are concrete walls on the approach and the hard appearance could be softened by planting climbers such as ivy at the base of the wall about 2 metres apart. The roadside kerbs in Cul na Greine were untidy. Cill Bríde housing scheme looked very well.

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

The approaches to Killeely are very welcoming and well-maintained. We liked the stone walls (new and old) in and around Killeely. It is important to maintain that tradition. The wall opposite Emly Road is a main feature in Killeely and we note your enhancements with floral displays in window boxes attached to the wall. The GAA grounds are a fine complex with a strong boundary hedge of the coniferous evergreen Leyland's cypress. It would be great if they planted some trees on both sides of the grounds to enhance the grounds and add shelter. The entrance gates and piers are well-painted.

Concluding Remarks:

Killeely has many things going for it, especially an enthusiastic and active Tidy Town Committee. We hope you find this report compliment you for your efforts in having the town looking its best and providing advice on best practice. We look forward to receiving your application in 2023.