

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kells - Ceanannas Mor** Ref: **579**
County: **Meath** Mark: **323**
Category: **E** Date(s): **24/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	23	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
TOTAL MARK	550	309	323

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. Kells is welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2022. Thank you for your application, map and photos. There is a large committee and a large number of volunteers working diligently to develop and enhance the town. Kells has over thirty estates in the town. It is therefore appropriate that the committee work directly with the resident's associations in their work plan. Meetings are held regularly over an eight-month period. Kells Tidy Towns gets great support from Meath County Council, Pobal and Supervalu. Communication to the wider community is via newspaper and Church newsletter. There is also good interaction with the schools. Over the fifty years of involvement in the competition you have noticed a number of enhancements to the town that have been helped as a result of your involvement in the competition.

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

The town of Kells shows great pride in the history and heritage of the locality. It is a pleasure to visit this splendid town and note how the houses along the streetscape and the heritage buildings are appreciated and enhanced in line with their period of build. The Georgian heritage buildings which are an important part of the streetscape are upgraded in keeping with their period. St Colmcille's Church and Parochial House looked fresh. The Convent will remain part of the town but serving the town with a new need. The Kells Heritage Centre and St Johns Cemetery were all well-presented. Many houses along the streetscape have been enhanced with new painted facades. Other buildings have been enhanced with murals. Some of the unoccupied buildings have been removed and will be replaced in time. Civic space has been allocated to Maureen OHara who graces the town with charm and interest with many stopping to view this well presented area. Maureen had strong connections with the town. St Columbas monastic site and surroundings graces this part of the town also. The Fairgreen was visited which presents memories of past and present. The memorial garden a reminder of the past and the superb children's playground, a reminder of the present. The People's Park is certainly worth a visit. This park is a superb place for recreation with many walkways and picnic areas. The park also remembers past members of the community with a plaque erected at the burial site. The allotments in this area is addressing the needs of the community today. The cemetery was also visited and admired on its presentation. This area is now also home to the modern build of the Primary Care Centre.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

As one enters the town of Kells the floral displays along the streetscape and across a large number of facades is noticeable. Three tier planters brighten the streetscape at various sites. These planters which are planted

throughout the year are sponsored by local organisations and cared for by the Tidy Towns, Local Heroes and Pride of Place. The large single tier planters were also admired. The landscaping at the heritage centre and St John's Cemetery looked superb with many pollinators buzzing at this site. It is good to see wild flowers, native hedging and trees which includes fruit trees being planted. Ground planting where feasible for this type of planting is encouraged. The town also had good hard landscaping which is softened by excellent planting, both bringing their own colour and interest to the streetscape and surroundings. Do ensure all dead trees are removed and replaced.

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

In this category groups are asked to show how they appreciate and manage nature and biodiversity in their locality. The town of Kells and its surroundings is rich in biodiversity and habitats. The planting of wildflower meadows and reducing the amount of grass mowed all helps to enhance biodiversity. Have you carried out a biodiversity study of the area? This would result in a plan that would steer you to the right methods, in the enhancement and developing of biodiversity in the area. There are many sites where such studies could be undertaken. This would also help to involve the wider community. Public events are a great way of raising awareness such as a tree planting day. Engaging with a member of a conservation organisation such as Birdwatch Ireland and hosting a walk and talk on birds in the locality is always enjoyed by the community. Involving the schools in any of these studies or talks is encouraged.

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

In this category groups are to show how their activities through more efficient management of their resources is helping to reduce waste generation. Harvesting of rainwater can be done by the wider community for watering flowers or other uses. Bug hotels are made from recycled stone and other materials. Growing vegetables like at the allotments is another good example. Reducing on energy by using energy saving bulbs is also good. Cycling where feasible and not driving is recommended. Collecting rubbish around waterways and reducing the amount entering the water, stops plastic damaging marine life. These are some examples of reducing waste generation and generally groups are doing more projects than the ones listed. It is important to list all projects as they are not all visible on the ground. Otherwise they could go unnoticed and not get the recognition they deserve.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Kells has a good plan in place on the control of litter. There are regular litter picks on Saturday and Sunday. A clean sweep policy encourages businesses to keep the area outside their premises clean and fresh. Footpaths are kept free of advertising boards, allowing better accessibility for buggies and wheelchair users. Advertising boards are also discouraged. Controlling litter involves the wider community, all working together, keeping their own areas and stretch of road tidy. The recycling centre was visited and it was clean on day of adjudication.

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

There is great interaction with all residents in the town. The number of volunteers in Kells shows there is good community spirit. All groups working together is commended. The committee meet regularly with the resident's associations, assisting and helping each other with various projects. A number of estates were visited, to name but a few, St Colmcilles Villas a long-established estate, Rockfield Road estate, Cherry Hill a large estate, Headfort Grove Park and Priory. All estates visited were had well-presented green areas, trees and plants. The residents throughout Kells are commended on the excellent presentation of their homes and surroundings. A lot of the residents also help with projects to ensure the town continues to be developed and enhanced. The children's playground was a pleasure to visit and see so many happy children enjoying the amenity.

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

The entrance signs and roundabouts give a very good first impression entering the town. Roads are kept litter free with regular litter picks. Traffic flowed well, parking was good, footpaths are good, with new footpaths and paving noted. Verges along the approach roads are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Trees, hedging, good landscaping of wildflowers, shrubs and annuals were noted all bringing colour and vibrancy to the streetscape. Bollards and signage was also generally good.

Concluding Remarks:

Kells continues to do good work, maintaining and preserving the heritage of this beautiful town. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.