

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: Kill - An Chill

Ref: 374

County: Kildare

Mark: 397

Category: D

Date(s): 16/06/2025

21/06/2025

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	58	60
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	44	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	27	29
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	70	71
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	48	50
TOTAL MARK	550	383	397

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór. Kill is welcomed to the SuperValu 2025 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your application and helpful maps. As always your participation in the competition is appreciated. Kill has a strong committee of ten members and several volunteers from various groups in the community, with newcomers to the area especially welcome. Regular meetings are held to discuss and plan projects or to address issues that may arise. You are also fortunate to have an ecologist/biodiversity officer sharing invaluable information to members through a WhatsApp group. This is an important part of the competition and it is important to have correct knowledge to progress. There is also good support from Kildare County Council, all other agencies, businesses, sporting organisations and schools through fund raising and advice. You are also fortunate to have workers on CE/TUS helping out with maintenance. It is getting harder to get these important workers leaving it more difficult for groups, especially during the summer months. Communication to the wider community on your activities is through social media, public meetings and word of mouth. An annual newsletter is also distributed to all residents, keeping people up to date on all projects that continue to enhance and develop the village and surroundings. There is great participation from the school's sharing information on biodiversity, through planting projects and nature walks on the many trails. Well done to the Men's Shed for their ongoing support. Your present plan for the village is in its last year and has been very helpful in achieving most of your objectives that you had set out to develop. No doubt your new plan will include what is left to complete and further new projects, which you are wished well with.

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

Kill is a picturesque historical village with welcoming stone entrance signs on the main roads leading to the village. There is a mix of heritage and modern buildings bringing their own charm to their surroundings. The Churches are well maintained buildings. St Brigid's Church is the focal point of the village with the public park providing space for the community to enjoy all activities. Your walks are well planned, allowing for recreational strolls. These walks have incorporated many interesting projects throughout and are maintained to a high standard. St Brigid's School looked pristine with colourful beds adding interest to the school grounds. The Rowan Walk provides plenty of information on the many plants as children and parents enjoy this splendid amenity. Another point of recreation for the community is Kill GAA grounds, blending into the streetscape with its superb presentation. Heritage and history are very much part of the village, and it is good to see it being retained and appreciated, such as the John Devoy Monument and information point. The businesses of the village are fresh and welcoming, in particular, the Old House where refreshments can be obtained after a leisure walk along the river, which is adjacent to the premises.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The natural surroundings along the entrance roads and throughout the village of mature trees, hedging and shrubs have been complemented by the well planted areas of herbaceous and annual planting. This planting has been carefully positioned throughout the village. Kill is synonymous with its colourful planted steel containers that are placed along the streetscape. There is a significant number of these that are well planted and maintained. At various points there is a lot of ground planting, of a mix of , which is applauded. Wild flower meadows are also noted and are being developed further. Information is provided for walkers to learn about the various trees and plants that are in abundance. The planting at the pumps of the area were particularly admired. One area this year's adjudicator admired is the maintenance and presentation of the various sections of planting that contain many plants that are pollinator friendly. It takes a lot of effort from everyone to maintain this standard.

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

Biodiversity is an important part of life for the community of Kill. Working with Dr Paddy Madden and Stephen O'Byrne who understand and are aware of nature and biodiversity in Kill village and surroundings, ensures proper management of local species and habitats. Your biodiversity plan is implemented not only by the Tidy Towns group but by the wider community. This is evident in the planting at the housing estates and throughout most homes in the village. The school also plays an important part in educating the children on the importance of biodiversity. The many points of information are also very helpful in this area. It is important to create awareness and show appreciation of local species and habitats. This you are doing by your planting of natural areas adding to the biodiversity of the village. The many walks and information boards provides the wider community with a better knowledge and understanding of local species and habitats. Your many projects were admired by the adjudicator and you are wished well with this good work.

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

In this category groups are asked to show how they are making their centre more sustainable by their activities. Water, transport and energy are some of the more everyday areas where savings can be made. Harvesting of rainwater by installing water butts can be adopted by the wider community. More of the community are installing solar panels and are more conscious of saving electricity. Composting is also a superb way of turning waste into use. Walking and cycling are good for health and well-being and are also good for saving. The Green School Initiative is also helpful for encouraging energy conservation. Have you been in contact with the recycling companies to see if the amount of waste is being reduced in the community as per data on waste collected. The planting of perennial flowers also helps to reduce on cost and waste.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Kill has a good plan in place around the control of litter. The workers in the village are part of this plan along with a number of volunteers. The green kilometre is a great way of maintaining entrance roads and also helps to get more of the community involved. The maintenance around the recycling centres can be sometimes problematic with dumping in these areas if banks are full. Have you noticed if the amount of litter is being reduced, on your annual litter picking event days. If waste is reducing it shows your plan of action around litter is working. The village was generally clean and tidy with neat verges and good signage

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

Kill village like most towns and villages has expanded over the years with many new housing developments been constructed and continuing to do so. It is good for the area to see development taking place and for any businesses that are involved. It is good to note that the residents in the estates are getting involved through the Tidy Towns and other organisations to help with the development and enhancement of the village and surroundings. All the estates visited had good planting of trees, shrubs and bee friendly plants. Well done to St. Patrick's Park on their achievements in the Pride of Place. The houses along the approach roads and throughout the village are all very well maintained. The children's play area is also well cared for. The residents are commended on the work they do in the presentation of their homes and also helping out with the many projects in the village.

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

The approach roads to the village gives a very good first impression to those visiting. The stone beds planted at the welcome signs, with bee friendly plants, are attractive. The John Devoy memorial and information boards is also commended. Verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. The floral displays in containers and ground planting were admired. There is an abundance of trees hedging, plants and green areas along the entrance roads. The roundabouts another important part of the road layout can fall sometimes to the local Tidy Towns to help with maintenance. The TII are responsible, but the local group does most of the maintenance. J8 roundabout looks very good, and it was unfortunate the damage done to J7, but knowing the work that Kill Tidy Towns do this roundabout will be looking much improved very soon again.

Concluding Remarks:

Kill was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. Great work is being done to develop and enhance the village while retaining its natural surroundings. Biodiversity is very important to the community, and you are wished well with your continued work in this area.

Second Round Adjudication:

This adjudicator was delighted to be asked to do a second-round judging of your wonderful village. Kill celebrates 40 years of involvement with the national Tidy Towns competition, and you have consistently been such a strong entrant with fantastic support from the local community. There are several wonderfully maintained green areas and eyecatching landscaped beds at every turn in the village. The change in your planting strategy to use pollinator friendly plants is noted as a direct result of your focus on biodiversity. The stone planters at Hey Darling were overflowing with vibrant pinks and yellows. A lovely sight. We note the focus you are putting on tree planting in the village with the new trees and their locations listed in your submission and seen on the day at the roadside by St Patrick's Park and The Gables. This will be a fantastic legacy for the future generations in the village. The mature trees in the park by your wonderfully kept church add such character to the historic main street. While the new trees planted in the inspiring grounds of Scoil Bride will also add so much to this community resource as they mature. The village core and its approaches were very well kept. Homes in the village were beautifully presented with the range of period homes a delight. The yellow and purple roadside planting at the Hillfort and the central open space area were looking spectacular. Ensure that seating is inclusive with backs provided to some and arm rest for older residents. These can be retrofitted as necessary as you make Kill an age friendly village. Ensure all tree ties in the village are removed as your trees are established, left in place they can rub and cause damage to the trunks. Many of the trees at Kilheale Estate do not need their stakes or ties any more. There seems to be a large number of bins in the village, are they all necessary. If ones are not filled regularly consider reducing their number as they can clutter up areas. Litter was not noted on the second-round adjudicators visit. Your planters at the village gateway were eye-catching and we loved the treatment of your 2 cream painted water pumps. Roadside verge management, along the road at the John Devoy Memorial, with areas left for biodiversity, was excellent. There does not seem to be a village sign on the approach from the south along the Hartwell Road by the 60kph signs? Or did we miss it? This second round adjudicator endorses the comments made by the first-round adjudicator and thanks all involved for the obvious effort put into the presentation of the village as seen on the day.