

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcornan - Cill Churnáin** Ref: **2204**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **269**
Category: **A** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	30	31
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	33	34
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	42	44
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	550	259	269

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór. Welcome to Supervalu Tidy Towns 2023. Thank you for participating again in Tidy Towns. Tidy Towns is good for your community and good for the country.

We had never passed by Kilcornan previously! When we stopped to undertake our Adjudication, we were amazed that this Tidy Towns Centre could be an entrant! But you have made something from this very small area and confounded our first impressions. You have a very accessible map and there can be no mistaking as to where we are! The N69 is a very busy road and that is an understatement! It is extremely dangerous. But despite this you have made something very good for your community. We wonder if consideration should be given by the Council to have a By-Pass of Kilcornan and that would allow for the growth of an enhanced Village. Presently, the road is extremely dangerous, and it does not facilitate pedestrians and it is very unsafe for cyclists. It should be considered. This is your seventh year of involvement in Tidy Towns and you have done well. You have a Committee of 12 and a volunteer cohort of 10. That is a good group of people. You say that the voluntary groups in Kilcornan – and there are a lot of groups, as you would expect – overlap with each other. So, everyone helps in one way or another. You have built up a Skills Audit and have a network of knowledgeable contacts. As you say, "Tidy Towns is not just the Committee but the whole community in a positive, socially inclusive, sustainable, and environmentally friendly way". You have at least 15 agencies, bodies, and businesses that support your Tidy Towns. You have involved the local National School and the Green Schools Committee involves pupils from First to Sixth Class. The one problem is that since there is no Second Level School in the area, nor a Youth Club, it is difficult to involve Teenagers in Tidy Towns.

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

The Streetscape starts at the Church, then there is the Graveyard on the opposite side, Kilcornan House which is on the Derelict list, the National School and Community Centre and the Pre School, the GAA grounds, the Grotto facing the road. The Grotto has very good cut stonework and the area around it has been planted very attractively. It does require some weeding. In addition, there is a County Council depot facing the road. An attempt has been made to plant a Beech hedge to mitigate the negative frontage. However, the entrance gates are not very attractive and detract from the "street". Opposite this compound there is another one on the opposite side of the road. The boundary fence has been planted to the front with Laurel hedging and it is not a suitable hedge plant and will be a future maintenance issue. It should be replanted with Beech or Whitethorn. We also noticed, if we were correct, that there was leakage of oil or diesel in this compound. This should be investigated. Both compounds should be enhanced to make them more attractive.

The Church is well maintained and has some fine trees that make the area quite attractive. Across the road is the

Graveyard with a parking area facing the boundary wall. It would be a much more attractive wall if it were planted with a hedge, but it is doubtful if there is room for a hedge and car parking. There would appear to be no space for trees inside the front wall of the Graveyard, and this is a pity. However, you should try to find some areas where Birch trees could be planted – this would reduce the negative impact of the boundary wall and make the Graveyard more attractive. We would suggest the planting of an Ivy hedge to the front of the roadside wall, and this could make the Graveyard more attractive – it would only require intermittent clipping every two years and it would also be good for insects. The other walls could also be planted with Ivy.

There is an interesting feature in the wall opposite the Church and this is 19 Horse Rings fixed into the wall opposite the Church. The rings were used in times past to tie up the horses (and donkeys also?) whilst families attended Church. These are small, but significant local features that should be treasured.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your ornamental area by the school wall has now had the addition of Wildflowers and adjacent to the Grotto area. The L6125 road has been planted with a mix of Apple trees and ornamental whitethorn and accompanied with Spring and Summer bulbs. This adds to the attractiveness of this road. You have a very restricted area because of the very busy and dangerous road. Therefore, you have had to make do with any available space to enhance your area and you have done this with the Church grounds, tubs, and wheelbarrows. You should also consider planting suitable trees in the Community Centre and School grounds areas. To reduce shading on the grounds we would suggest using Birch trees.

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

Your Kilcornan Tidy Towns has many ideas and actions, and you are involved in Bird Watch Ireland's Garden Bird Survey and you also co-operated with the Askeaton Tidy Towns Daubenton Bat Survey and Limerick Bat Group in taking Bat monitor recordings of various bat species. In cooperation with the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) you have undertaken a Bumblebee survey in 2022. What you are doing is making information and information is so important in understanding how we can protect our fragile environment.

We are delighted to see that you have engaged Ecologist, Tom Harrington to undertake a year long Biodiversity survey of Kilcornan and to then develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for future projects. That is a great idea, and it is all the more impressive that you have funded this with a Community Foundation Ireland €5,000 grant. The survey covers a wide area, and it will be very interesting to see the results in a year's time or more. It should provide real information for your whole community. This follows on from your Awareness Raising and Improving Knowledge of Nature and Biodiversity work that you have been working on. It will also educate and raise awareness in your community of Biodiversity and Nature. You have taken on board the 2019 Adjudicator Report on creating Wildlife areas at the Curraghchase and Hollypark entrances. They look very well indeed and adding the information signage also helps to explain to the public what is going on. Your reusable Nature Posters also add to the education (in the best sense of the word) of the public.

Your Kilcornan National School have run Biodiversity events in May 2023 and what excitement this generates and, in the process educates the children in a seamless way.

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

You talk about Sustainability and unlike many, you practice it and particularly in Kilcornan National School! Considering the environment that you live in – a village cut in two by an extremely busy road – you are working to make Sustainability part of your day. And how you managed the Walk to School Week, the Scoot to School Week and Bike Week in September 2022 and 2023 is a demonstration that Sustainability is important and catching on. Knowledge is wonderful when you are dealing with Sustainability – you really need to know what is involved in it. And your Kilcornan National School demonstrates this - it was asked to take part in the Climate Ambassadors programme with Green Schools. Simple things like making raised beds and new fencing are being made of recycled pallets, you have installed Water Butts in both Kilcornan National School and St. John the Baptist Church. And you have now reverted to using real cutlery again. Simple, but that is how Sustainability can start and eventually influence those around you. Well done, Kilcornan.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Team Limerick Clean Up is everywhere! And it has produced results. Your community collected 40 bags of litter, families joined your 'Adopt a Patch', your school participated in cleaning the school and Community Centre grounds. And you have a Little Pickers Programme where 2nd Class children pick rubbish, take a picture, and then write about it. Nothing is too small when it comes to dealing with litter and nothing is too small when children are so enthusiastic. And so, the adults do something similar too! Volunteers undertake "Adopt a Patch" to deal with what is outside their own property. Every little thing helps, as the saying goes.

On our Adjudication day we can say that you are working well in dealing with Litter and we do hope that the old garage and the Kilcornan House issue become resolved very soon.

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

Your 'Adopt a Patch' idea is working well, and houses and gardens are well maintained. Keeping gardens tidy should be done without herbicides and the message seems to be taken on board recently.

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

Because of the volume and speed of the traffic on the N69 it is obviously dangerous to work on this road and it

should be an issue for the Council unless there is a safe area to work in. But you have continued to work safely on the side roads. One suggestion we might make is to contact your Council to commission a specific sign at both ends of your road that is different to the normal road signage, but that clearly indicates in a friendly way that anyone using the road should be aware that this is a special area.

Concluding Remarks:

We are amazed at how much you do in Kilcornan and particularly in an incredibly dangerous section of road. Good luck with the finding a solution to the dereliction of the Garage and Kilcornan House.