

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilteevan - Cill Taobháin** Ref: **2189**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **318**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>318</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 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! Many thanks for your entry for this year's competition. It was well presented and fairly concise at 20 pages, which is welcome for the adjudicator! The map was also very well done, easy to follow and not too overloaded with projects. Your personality and love for your area came through in the entry form. You are a very active group with many projects on the go, and you are willing to network and share your knowledge. Key contacts are Roscommon County Council, LAWPRO and the regional NPWS Conservation Ranger. You are connected to so many groups, too many to mention here, and have completed training on a range of topics including biodiversity, Canva and managing the committee and visitors to the area. Involving the staff and children Kilteevan National School is also key to the success of your work. I see you not only have a Facebook page but also an impressive website. You keep in touch via a range of means to include young and old, from WhatsApp and Facebook to church announcements, to the local newspapers and radio. You are also one of the few groups I know of that has managed to establish a Junior Tidy Towns committee. It seems you also feel the benefits of being part of the competition, which I am delighted to hear. Well done for all your efforts in this category!

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

The centre of Kilteevan is small, though there is lots happening when it is explored, for instance Ash Park, the community garden and henhouse and the Lilliput Way. The bright yellow of the Lilliput machine was striking, and more features have been added to the walkway, e.g. the new age-friendly seating, the acknowledgement stone and interpretive signage. These are fantastic outdoor spaces to have in the locality and the new additions have enhanced them further. The church and grounds were neat, though the Red Geraniums are unfortunately not bee friendly. Other Geraniums such as the pink 'Rozanne' or purple 'Johnson's Blue' varieties are much better pollinator flowers. Extensive pollinator-friendly lists are available at [pollinators.ie](http://pollinators.ie). The Community Centre was tidy and I noted was located in a former church! The national school also looked well. I drove over to Kilteevan Cemetery with its old church ruins. It was well tended to and I read the interesting information board showing the area's links to actor Tom Cruise!

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Kilteevan Cemetery was well cared for and I am glad some sections are left uncut for wildlife. Ash Park was also presented nicely. The Kilteevan River area by the bridge looked well with some colourful planting and a wildlife sign. Green spaces such as the corner with the grotto, old bike and at the community centre were maintained but perhaps strips or patches could be cut on a less regular basis to allow some wildflowers emerge for bees. The Red Hawthorn

trees towards the cemetery will look beautiful when established and will benefit pollinators too. Spring bulbs look wonderful here earlier in the year I am sure, and I hope your Clematis/Honeysuckle wall is a success this time. The deck and mini library on the Cloonlarge Loop is a lovely addition, and I am happy you kept the Rock Art and heart-shaped pallet created by the children – it lifts the spirits.

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

You are obviously very active in this category which is pleasing to this adjudicator. There are too many projects to mention individually, though I note you are continuously building on your knowledge via training such as the Heritage Week event last year, focusing on Moths, and the follow-up trapping and recording events. I assume the ecologist Michael Bell assisted you in recording your findings on the National Biodiversity Data website, which is a brilliant resource and one everyone can contribute to. The Shamrock Squad Adventures Walk with Leave No Trace representatives sounds very enjoyable and worthwhile, combining nature and supporting those with additional needs. The FarmPEAT 'Love your Wellies' competition seems to have really engaged local pupils. Well done to the winners and Kiltievan National School for taking part! I was glad to see the Lavender in Ash Park, buzzing with bees, while some nearby Clovers would also provide sustenance. Perhaps more patches of 'low-mow' would work well here. The planters and flowerbeds add a dash of colour. Some varieties are bee-friendly, though it would be nice to see more of these to replace traditional summer bedding plants in future – again, see [pollinators.ie](http://pollinators.ie) for inspiration. I obviously can't avoid mentioning the wonderful Lilliput Way you have created over the last few years. I had a little difficulty finding it, but it was worth waiting for. The gorgeous signs and artwork tie in Gulliver's Travels, fairies and the wonder of nature, while the Gulliver statue and recently added Acknowledgement Stone and wooden 'drumkit' are so creative. A magical place for children and adults alike!

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

I see that you try to repurpose and recycle materials where possible, including for the fairies! You also give bubble wrap and tissue paper to the local Hospice Shop. Growing pollinator plants from seed is another great way to save on resources too, so well done for that. Other suggestions might be rainwater harvesting, active travel campaigns and carpooling, and energy audits. For more ideas on how you can make your area more sustainable, check out <https://irelandsdg.geohive.ie/> Information on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is available here, in respect to Ireland specifically. It may provide ideas in areas such as waste, energy, water, biodiversity and community. Other useful websites are [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie), [epa.ie](http://epa.ie) and [seai.ie](http://seai.ie).

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Kiltievan was very tidy on my visit, as was the Lilliput Way. This is down to your consistent hard work. Well done on dealing with local dumping issues and working with the litter warden to clear problem areas up. Hopefully your training will help you approach the issue successfully in future. If so, perhaps you would share your experience with the Tidy Towns! The probation Service Support cleanup and the annual Spring Clean are positive initiatives. I commend you also for removing weeds by hand and without weedkiller, which we are trying to advise all groups to do. Chemical weedkiller is toxic to both wildlife and humans and we have to take an alternative approach to 'weeds' going forward.

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

There are no housing estates in Kiltievan. It is a small village, but the houses present are neatly maintained. It is great to hear more people are getting on board with the committee and/or taking steps such as planting, leaving wildflower areas and preparing for adjudication.

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

Approach roads into Kiltievan were generally well presented on my visit and the welcome signage is bright, clear and inviting. The pump is a nice feature, though the herb bed surround needs mending and perhaps the bee hotel would be better relocated to a 'wilder' area among grass and trees. I see that you aim to move the hotel and herbs into a new community garden when the opportunity arises. You also manage The Forge building and Pioneer Hall, along with the verges. The Pioneer Hall is a piece of local history and the sign is informative, though the building and front yard may need a bit of 'sprucing up'. Some verges could benefit from reduced mowing in strips and patches, e.g. opposite the community garden and green spaces at the junctions. Roadside planters were filled with colourful flowers which seemed well tended to.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Kiltievan was a lovely surprise. I had never visited before but was glad to get the opportunity. You work hard to foster a sense of community, to keep the village looking lovely - and your creativity is inspiring. I wish you well with all future endeavours!