

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildavin**

Ref: **1147**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **242**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **25/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	0	37
The Built Environment	50	0	33
Landscaping	50	0	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	19
Litter Control	50	0	34
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	0	7
Tidiness	30	0	20
Residential Areas	40	0	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	24
General Impression	10	0	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>242</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

The planted sign welcomes the visitor to Kildavin – it is appropriate to read on your entry form how 'nobody is a stranger' in this community and that all generations contribute to the life of the village and, incidentally, to the success of this competition. You are ably supported by a number of organisations, among them, it was gratifying to read, the Slaney Country Market. This was the first visit of this adjudicator – it was immediately apparent how well the village benefits in atmosphere and safety from the traffic of the N80 which probably bypassed it several years ago. It is such a pleasant place simply just to walk about in! – but that is hardly the line taken by the members of the Development Committee who have more pressing matters to hand. Thank you for your easily read schematic map.

### The Built Environment:

The Roman Catholic church commands the village, its plain design rendering it all the more satisfying aesthetically. Unusually for a Church of Ireland church and tower this one nestles comfortably in the centre, adding a pleasing air of quaintness to the street with its local granite. The school is most impressive, particularly since the extension that you point out fulfils such a number of useful functions; certainly its design is striking and innovative. The external murals caught the attention. The Spellman Hall, very much a product of its period, is bright and welcoming. The dignified 1798 memorial is beautifully looked after. The weighbridge is remarkable. Conway's is notable for its well painted traditional exterior with no mass-produced signage – a real achievement.

### Landscaping:

The geraniums in tubs and half-tubs are very successful throughout. The site of what you describe as that of the former ball alley is particularly attractively laid out – it is hard to imagine that this has happened over the course of one year. The use of granite as a building material, and the granite slabs, are most imaginative. The planting too is far from conventional. This is a remarkable project which it is hoped will be appreciated by many visitors. Incidental planting in the form of window boxes and tubs were favourably noted, and climbing roses at the National School.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Attention is favourably drawn to the selection of bee- and butterfly- attracting plants. Grasses were appreciated.

Your position on the South Leinster Way clearly makes Kildavin a mecca of walkers. Not very much appears to have been undertaken in wild-life related study and information, such as a public board displaying the flora and fauna of the neighbourhood, and perhaps a wildlife survey has yet to be done. It may be that the school has undertaken such projects already; if not, a simple way to begin is for children to identify the birds, animals and plants that they see in their daily lives, this can become an inventory and an inspiration for drawing and painting for exhibition. The habitats are so varied in the neighbourhood – woodland, riverine, meadow – that there is no end of material. If studies are in the course of creation we would be greatly interested to learn about them.

### **Litter Control:**

It is good to read that you have a 'committed team' of villagers who pick litter in their particular neighbourhoods weekly – certainly something of this nature was clearly the case as there was hardly any disposable litter at the time of the visit. It is disconcerting to learn that there is dumping on ditches: is there any way of identifying how this happens or what section of society perpetrates it? In almost all the towns and villages in the competition it is understood that it is done by outsiders and this is undoubtedly the case. What would be so much more preferable would be for litter to be prevented at source and then your committed team would be able to turn to more creative pursuits: yet for the present their work is enormously valuable.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

It is encouraging to learn that your members came away from the Bio-diversity workshop with a number of plans which they will put into the practice. It is therefore unnecessary to enumerate the various ways in which waste minimisation and related practices can be used for the benefit of the community. It is interesting that among other things you are planning to harvest rainwater – to this adjudicator that is like a return to the past! You will find this particularly useful for irrigating your own plants especially when the water charges are introduced. Incidentally, some of the bins at the community hall could have done with a wash at the time of the visit. You do not mention how much the school is involved in the details of resource management but one imagines it must be considerable. Do include any relevant information on school initiatives in your next submission – as a matter of interest and also as a means of increasing your marks. You will by now have read the document under the above heading that was circulated with the entry form and it is hoped that you will find it informative and helpful.

### **Tidiness:**

Kildavin is undoubtedly a tidy village but a few points should be made such as mention of a stained wall on the corner of the main street and the Myshall road. A very short area that hasn't really decided what it is, with a wall in need of repainting, a granite shed and a cement block wall, also on the Myshall road, needs a little thought; probably there are a number of ownerships involved. On the day of the visit it was noticed that poisoning of kerbside weed at Crowsgrove resulted in a long brown smudge. These are small matters to be overcome in the course of time.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are several very charming terrace homes in the main street and on the Myshall road that give real character to the centre of the village. Well presented houses with two neat grass lawns were also seen on the Myshall road. Consideration might be given to the planting of two trees here, crab apple perhaps, or double cherry. Glasheen impressed by its pleasant layout, its neat central lawn and the backing of mature conifers and hardwoods. Young beech hedging was appreciated. Individual homes on the outskirts, some with very pleasant gardens, were noted.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Approaches are of a high standard with trim verges and attractive flower beds. Internal road surfaces and paving where its exits are of a high standard. Very well defined parking bays were seen below the school with planting that softens their appearance; have you thought of more shrubs that will give year round interest and provide cover and food for wild life rather than predominantly bedding plants? Are the niches in the wonderful granite walls intended for seating or to hold planters? The gateway to Spellman GAA Park is handsome but not the lengthy block boundary walls; consideration needs to be given as to whether the planting of climbers or painting would be the better solution; cost would be a major issue. Traffic calming measures were favourably noted.

### **General Impression:**

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