

SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry 2015

Submission by Celbridge Tidy Towns

Community Involvement & Planning

The Community

Community involvement is central to every aspect of Celbridge Tidy Towns (CTT) activities. Its stated mission is "To generate awareness, co-operation and enthusiasm amongst the people of Celbridge in a concerted effort to enhance the natural and built environment of the town". Its volunteers are drawn from the Community and, at a wider level, CTT depends, crucially on the community for funding and support generally. Equally, without being too presumptuous, we feel that CTT has much to offer in terms of contributing to the well-being of the community. The objectives of tidy towns coincide to a great extent with those of the community generally and in advancing these objectives, much progress can be made in enhancing the quality of, and quality of life in, Celbridge.

This is CTT's 20th year of entry to the competition. We have been successful in the past two years in gaining bronze medals. This has brought much pride to the village and has increased morale. This is evidenced by the continuous support for our projects and for our fund-raising, which has not been affected in the recent difficult years for the Irish economy and households generally.

In summary, the projects advanced by CTT have enhanced the village, and hopefully will also lead to greater development of tourism and business in the area. CTT leads by example to encourage the protection and maintenance of the built and natural environment. CTT sees promoting awareness and mobilising increased participation as critical to continuing the great progress which has been made in recent years, to advancing some major projects that can have a transformational effect on the town and its identity, and perhaps, at some point in the not too distant future, even aspiring to bringing a national title to County Kildare – a feat not often achieved in any code!

The Committee

CTT has a main committee of 11 persons. Within this group there are two working subcommittees; a Floral Committee and a Heritage & Tourism Committee. CTT's committee normally meets on the first Thursday of every month and the sub-committees meet periodically as necessary. However, CTT works in a very public manner. We hold our AGM in February/March each year, which is widely publicised, as are our activities generally. In 2015 the AGM was held on the 5th March in the Kildrought Inn. This, as ever, was a public meeting, which was also attended by a senior official of Kildare County Council who outlined a number of current developments and issues of relevance to CTT's work.

In addition members of the committee and other volunteers are also involved with many organisations in the community, for example, Celbridge Community Council, Celbridge/Castletown House Development Group; Celbridge Heritage Trail Group; Celbridge Heritage Tourism Forum (under the auspices of the county council's Integrated Services Programme); Arthur's Way Committee; Celbridge Street Festival Committee; Celbridge Guided Tours; Celbridge Action Alliance; Tea Lane Graveyard Committee; and individual resident's association committees.



Committee 2015 – 3 missing from photo

CTT enjoys the support of many agencies, bodies and businesses in the community, for example, Kildare County Council, Celbridge Business Association, local schools, Speaker's Bar Golf Society, RKD Landscapes, ReMax, Tesco, SuperValu, Celbridge Credit Union, Esso/Spar, Celbridge Manor Hotel, O'Riada Solicitors, Celbridge Directory.

CTT communicates with the community with the aid of local newspapers, SuperValu, Tesco, and community notice boards, KFM Radio, school talks, CTT Website, Facebook (>640 individual likes) and twitter (the latter showing encouraging increase in followers).

Committee members invest considerable effort in “administrative” type work such as planning, organising, fund-raising, making submissions to relevant bodies, judging competitions and of course, compiling the annual tidy towns competition application and supporting documentation.

The Volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the tidy towns movement and means through the bulk of the work is carried out. Moreover, the visible presence of volunteers engaged in litter removal and other work throughout the town is probably the single greatest promotional asset of the tidy towns movement in Celbridge. The number of volunteers varies over time; at the time of this submission there are over 60 active volunteers. Further details of work undertaken and arrangements for organising volunteer activities are set out in succeeding sections of this submission.

Engagement with agencies and bodies

While the work of its volunteers is the primary mechanism through which CTT operates, another very important means through which it furthers its objectives is through engagement with a range of external parties, both public agencies and local bodies of the type referred to above. This strand of CTTs activities involves lobbying, influencing, encouraging and co-operating with such agencies and bodies in matters of mutual interest. Foremost among these areas of engagement is CTTs relationship with Kildare County Council (KCC), both elected members and officials, which has been very positive and productive for many years. This is a two-way relationship, with KCC undertaking work on behalf of, or providing assistance to, CTT and the latter also helping KCC in the discharge of their responsibilities by drawing attention to relevant issues and providing useful local information.

The quality of engagement with KCC moved to a new level in 2014/15 due to a number of very significant developments, as follows:

- The advent of Celbridge-Municipal District on 1 June has brought a much more local and community focussed dimension to the operations and decision making of KCC, with a range of important local matters being decided by the 7 local municipal district members on a fully devolved basis, including input to the KCC budget, deciding priorities in all works of maintenance and repair in the district, adopting the local area plan and local bye-laws in areas such as traffic and parking and a number of important civic leadership powers including the right to establish a statutory office of Mayor of Celbridge-Leixlip. The fact the Celbridge previously lacked any form of local municipal governance, unlike its neighbours Leixlip and Naas, highlights the importance of this development. While it may take time for the municipal district to utilise their powers fully, the feedback provided by municipal district members who attended the AGM in March suggests that the new arrangement has much potential for furthering CTT's objectives. CTT looks forward to very positive and productive engagement with Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District members in the years ahead.
- The establishment of a local forum for Celbridge under the auspices of KCCs Integrated Services Programme (ISP) has provided a very valuable new structure to advance the welfare and development of Celbridge through co-operative initiative and action. A range of groups are involved such as Celbridge Business Association (CBA), Celbridge Community Council (CCC) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) and CTT, which played a significant role in its establishment and which is making an important contribution to the work of the forum, not least through the submission to it of a draft Heritage Tourism Strategy Framework, listed under as Project No. 2. The forum has adopted the title of Celbridge Heritage Tourism Forum, reflecting the fact that it and its various participating groups have identified the development of heritage based tourism as a key platform for advancing the development, social and economic progress and quality of life generally of the area. The fact that many of the strategies and actions needed to pursue these objectives, such as enhancement of Celbridge Village, protection and restoration of heritage assets, and improvement of the town's appearance, will directly support the achievement of tidy towns objectives, makes the work of the Forum particularly relevant to CTT.
- During 2014/15 CTT formally registered as part of KCC's Public Participation Network, a new instrument of community and citizen participation which has been introduced as part of the Government's local government reform programme. This has potential to strengthen CTT's capacity to garner further support and assistance for its efforts and to exert a positive influence on relevant local authority proposals and activities.

The youth dimension

CTT places considerable emphasis on maximising awareness among young people of the objectives of tidy towns and involving them in activities, as a key to future improvements and embedding a sustainability culture in our community. We have made much progress in this regard, some examples of which are cited under.

CTT has an on-going relationship with a number of schools. Periodically we run awareness raising competitions. Some of the schools fund-raise for CTT by no-uniform days.



Tidy Towns volunteer Padraic Feeney receives cheque from Scoil Mochua

8 schools are very involved in the Green Flag movement. Young people who are in transition year join our Saturday and Sunday morning clean ups on the Main St. Many of these young people are engaged in the Gaisce Awards project.

CTT also have contact with the Bridge Club youth project and a youth diversionary project in the village, which has have made flower boxes for us.

This year we organized, with the probation office, for a young person to undertake community service work under the auspices of Tidy Towns. This was a successful project.

Planning

In the context of the Community Involvement and Planning category, "planning" is taken to relate primarily to the planning of CTTs activities and similar strategic work, whereas specific projects related to physical/spatial planning are referenced in other categories under in the context of issues such as unauthorised development and illegal or out of character signage. CTTs 5-Year Plan is the key reference document which guides the internal planning of CTT. Taking a lead from recommendations in last year's tidy towns competition adjudication report, the Committee undertook a major revision and restructuring of the Plan in the context of this year's update. Other important work in the area of planning and strategy during 2014/15, the formulation of a draft Heritage Tourism Strategy for Celbridge and a submission in relation to KCC's Celbridge Local Area Plan process, are outlined in the projects section under.

Projects in Community Involvement & Planning

Unlike other categories, projects outlined here relate to the type of planning and strategic matters referred to above rather than direct tidy towns work or activity. The following are the key projects of this type undertaken in 2014/15 (project numbers are as indicated on sketch map in the case of location-specific projects):

Project List:

1. Revised CTT 5-Year Plan: The Committee undertook a fundamental restructuring and revision of the 5-Year Plan underpinned by a “SWOT” analysis. The various projects being implemented or proposed during the plan period, specific actions to implement them, relevant timescales, and progress to date are outlined in tabular format. A copy of the plan, “Celbridge Tidy Towns 5-Year Plan 2012– 2016 (2015 Revision)”, is attached.
2. Draft Heritage Tourism Strategy: In December 2014 CTT’s Heritage Tourism Sub-Committee made a submission to the Kildare Local Development Company (at the suggestion of a representative of the latter) setting out a broad strategy for improving and maximising the potential of Celbridge through the development of heritage tourism, building on the particular strengths and assets of the area. This submission incorporates a range of objectives, projects and actions of CTT. It was further refined slightly and presented as a draft Heritage Tourism Strategy Framework entitled *Celbridge: Our Heritage, Our Future* (copy attached) to the ISP Heritage Forum, and funding was obtained under the KCC heritage grants scheme in April 2015 to complete a professional production of the document. This will provide an agreed medium to long term framework of priorities to guide concerted action and engagement with relevant agencies for the betterment of the area, incorporating many key objectives of CTT.
3. CTT submission on Celbridge Local Area Plan (LAP): In March 2015, the Committee made submission in relation to an initial issues document published by KCC for the Celbridge LAP process. The submission outlined the key objectives of CTT of relevance to the LAP and proposals as to how the LAP could support their achievement.
4. Engagement with Gateway Project: During 2014/15 CTT worked with KCC to deploy participants in the Government’s community employment scheme Gateway, by providing lists of suitable tidy towns work for scheme participants and providing on-going feedback on performance to KCC.

In addition to the foregoing projects, there is a strong community involvement element to very many of the specific projects which are outlined under in the 7 other categories

Built Environment & Streetscape:

There is a close and inescapable link between the built environment of Celbridge and its long and rich history. This is clearly manifested by the extent of heritage buildings and sites in the area which bear enduring physical testament to different periods in history, reaching back to the early Christian era, including the ancient Tea Lane cemetery, the 19th century Workhouse and Mill, and an array of 18th century “big houses” with Castletown House the centrepiece. There are strong associations between the built heritage and a range of prominent historical figures such as Swift, the Grattans, the Conollys and perhaps Celbridge’s most famous son, Arthur Guinness, born in the historic Village and now commemorated there by an excellent life size bronze sculpture designed and produced by a local artist and brought about primarily by the efforts of CTT. It is not surprising, therefore, that there would be a strong focus on heritage and history in much of CTT’s projects, particularly in relation to the built environment and the condition and the Village streetscape. CTT is further contributing to the conservation, enhancement and improvement of access to the various heritage sites in the area by its participation in the new Celbridge Heritage Tourism Forum, which is referenced in the Community Involvement and Planning category.

The village of Celbridge grew up in the 16th century around the Dongan estate. This estate was confiscated during the Williamite War and was eventually purchased by William “Speaker” Conolly, who built Castletown House, the finest example of a Palladian House in the country. This house is now in the ownership of the OPW, which has carried out extensive restoration works and improvements to the house and surrounding demesne.

The imposing entrance to Castletown House dominates the Main Street of Celbridge – the Village. Additionally there are many historic buildings in the Village which are worthy of note. To identify these important buildings the leaflet “Discover Celbridge- A Walking Trail” and in 2014, a follow up “Visitors Information Leaflet” were launched by Breda Konstantin, a member of CTT and of Celbridge Heritage Tourism Forum, for the benefit of residents and visitors. These brochures have been distributed widely in Celbridge and in Dublin. They are published on CTT Website, www.celbridgeonline.ie and other local websites and the Discover Ireland website. (copy enclosed with application form). The walking tours have grown in popularity and have helped to attract an increased number of visitors to the area. These tours are advertised by very attractive pull-up units on permanent display in Celbridge Manor Hotel and in Castletown House. Up to date information on walking tours is advertised through the Liffey Champion and Facebook page for “Celbridge Guided Tours” (>570 individual likes). (see Liffey Champion photo below 24/01/2015), an initiative undertaken during 2014/15.



Project List:

5. August 2014 saw the beginning of a major CTT project for enhancement of the Village area, beginning with the underground wiring of the Eircom lines in the village. For many years the replacement of the overhead wiring and removal of associated poles had been a proposed project of CTT which was pursued in many ways. An application for assistance to LEADER in 2013 was favourably received but ultimately proved unsuccessful in obtaining funding from that source, which was a major disappointment. However through the good offices of Kildare County Council, which had been our partner in that application, funding was made available to deal with this problem on a phased basis. As this report is being written, stage two of this project is completed and we await the commencement of stage three, which will see the removal of Eircom wires and poles to the Grotto. Parallel with this undergrounding work, another phase of the Village enhancement project has proceeded with the removal of a number of parking signs (19 signs removed) and some telephone kiosks, further reducing clutter and opening up the view of the historic streetscape. This project remains on our long-term plan as we now have to seek the means of undertaking further phases of the enhancement project, having the electric wires removed also and good quality street furniture appropriate to the character of the historic village installed. CTT were nominated for (LAMA) Community & Council Awards for this project and were short listed under the engineering section. We are certain that when complete, the Village enhancement project will have a truly transformational effect, not only in terms of the streetscape and appearance of the Village, but also by further strengthening community pride in the area and demonstrating the potential for improvement.
6. CTT has continuously drawn attention to the importance of the presentation of heritage buildings and the quality of the shop fronts. In July 2014, CTT sent a number of unauthorised development reports to Kildare County Council in relation to signage on premises. In February 2015, the council distributed a letter to all businesses in the village reminding them of their obligations under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and reminded of the shop front guidelines document.

7. In August 2014, CTT submitted an objection to Kildare County council regarding a planning application by Bank of Ireland to change the signage on their building at the entrance to the village at Liffey Bridge. CTT appealed a decision of KCC to grant partial approval. Bord Pleanála upheld our appeal and refused permission on the following grounds *"...having regard to the existing signage on the facade of the building, with its traditional design and materials, and the vernacular architectural design and style of the building, it is considered that the proposed replacement signage would seriously injure the amenities of the area...."*. This decision was a welcome vindication of the important work being performed by CTT in the interests of preserving the character and quality of the Village streetscape.
8. The development of Tea Lane Graveyard Project moved forward substantially this year. CTT are partners in this project and the chairperson sits on the project committee. On 29th November 2014, a community information meeting was held in the library, which attracted a very large attendance (to the extent that some people initially failed to gain admittance). Details of the graveyard restoration project were outlined. An archaeologist from Kilkenny Archaeology, who conducted a feasibility and conservation study on the graveyard, outlined the history of the graveyard and the further restoration work which is required. The graveyard was open to the public during heritage week on 28th August. It is open during the week when the workmen from the Tús Scheme are present which is usually the mornings of Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday.

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Liffey Champion • 29 November 2014

Celbridge community comes together to restore Tea Lane cemetery

by Laura Mc Loughlin

A LARGE gathering met in the library in Celbridge on Thursday, 20th November to hear the plans to restore Tea Lane Cemetery and develop it into a tourist destination.

The meeting was attended by Cöllin O'Driscoll from Kilkenny Archaeology who was commissioned by the Tea Lane Cemetery committee to undertake a conservation management plan.

Chairperson of the committee Breda Konstantin explained the motivations behind the project.

"What motivated us to get involved was one, we care for our social history and two we saw great tourism potential given that it is the burial place of William Conolly and Henry Grattan," said Breda.

"It could be a local tourist attraction if we develop it."

"The Round Tower in Clonsilla is linked to Tea Lane by an old pilgrim path."

"The Round Tower have secured funding and soon they are going to have a visitors centre there."

"When it is up and running it is intended to bring visitors along sections of the pilgrim path to Celbridge."

"We are working on the American Association with the Duggans. Tom Duggan became mayor of New York City and his family have been over and they know what we are about."

"Arthur's Way have a map to show the neck-lace of heritage in north Kildare and we are hoping to have Tea Lane included on Arthur's Way."

Tús workers Noel Dixon and Garry Whelan were commended on the work they have been carrying out at the cemetery in dealing with the overgrown vegetation.

"Without their work we wouldn't be as advanced as we are," said Breda.

Treasurer of the Committee Nuala Walker presented a gift to Noel and Garry which was sponsored by David Rubino owner and manager of Michaelangelo's restaurant.

The cemetery consists of a medieval church, the Grattan and Conolly Mausoleums and an array of gravestones ranging from as far back as 1700 to 1900.

Breda said because of the work done by previous committees the buildings are not in that bad of a condition.

"We walked into an overgrown site with overgrown vegetation," said Breda.

"The equipment was funded by the Heritage office in Kildare County Council and before the funding was received the Tús Towns put the money up front."

It was revealed on the night that the Tea Lane project came 3rd in this year's National Heritage Council Awards.

"We sincerely hope that funding will be given to get this project where it wants to be," added Breda.

Cöllin O'Driscoll from Kilkenny Archaeology explained some of the history of the cemetery.

"Tea Lane is in a townland called Oakleigh and it is part on a ridge over looking the Liffey," explained Cöllin.

"All along the ridge they have found prehistoric sites and this ridge seems to have been very important for a long time."

Cöllin said he believes the name Tea Lane comes from an old Irish word for church, beach and that tea is a corruption of that and it should actually be Church Lane.

"Tea Lane is the origins of Celbridge's earliest settlement and goes back to the century it comes under the De Hooftford family."

"They make it the parish church of the borough."

"There is a transformation and a large stone church is built."

Cöllin said between 30,000 and 40,000 people are buried in Tea Lane which spans over 800 years.

In the 17th century the De Hooftford family lost the lands to the Duggans after they had a fight with the King and when the Duggans lost at the Battle of the Boyne the borough of Kildough then passes to William 'Speaker' Conolly.

"Tea Lane became the church for the Castletown estate and the Conolly's gave Mausoleum built for him, underneath the Mausoleum are the vaults where their bones are interred."

"Their is modern history recorded at the site as well and the gravestones go up to 1900, this is the last of the Conolly association with Tea Lane and is the main reason why it becomes abandoned."

In 2000 a Tús scheme was undertaken at the cemetery and this is when a lot of the ground work in saving the buildings was carried out, especially from ivy.

From his assessment of the cemetery Cöllin found that a number of projects need to be carried out including work on the east end of the church, works to the boundary wall, repairs to the Funerary monuments and work on both the Grattan and Conolly Mausoleums.

"Tea Lane is unique in character and that's what makes it such a special place," said Cöllin.

"It is a very important archaeological site and it is a repository for sculpture and art as well as a source of local genealogy."

"There has been so much done to preserve and conserve it and it bring it to the public."

"It is a marvellous reflection of the community here."

Kildare County Council Heritage Officer Bridget Loughlin also spoke on the night and thanked Breda and the committee for their work.


"On behalf of Kildare County Council I want to thank Breda for her effort and enthusiasm," said Bridget.

"If it wasn't for people like Breda and the committee we wouldn't have graveyards like this."

"The work of the Tús workers is fantastic and having them in graveyards shows them to be open 19 and a half hours a week."

Before this there were keyholders and there was no access to it."

Among those in attendance were local councillors Ide Cussen (SP), Frank O'Rourke (FF), Kevin Byrne (Lab), Anthony Larkin and Brendan Young (Lab) along with Marion McKay, North Kildare Tús Supervisor. Theresa Fenlon



At the talk on the Tea Lane Graveyard were: (standing, l-r) Chairperson Breda Konstantin; Cllrs Frank O'Rourke, Ide Cussen and Kevin Byrne; Marion McKay, North Kildare Tús Supervisor; Fergus Fenlon, Integrated Services Programme; Bridget Loughlin, Heritage Officer KCC; Cöllin Ó Driscoll, Director Kilkenny Archaeology; Claire Hickey OPW Castletown; Nuala Walker, Treasurer Tea Lane Graveyard Committee and Michael Connolly, Tea Lane Graveyard Committee. (Seated): Cllr Anthony Larkin and Noel Dixon, Tús worker.

9. CTT wrote to NAMA in August 2014 seeking assistance with the repair of the breach in the wall of the Donacomper Estate, Lucan Road, which had been an eyesore and a possible hazard for a long period. Previous attempts by CTT had failed to get it repaired. This approach proved successful, with NAMA putting pressure on the developers, who then repaired the wall to a very high standard. This has helped to enhance the approach to the town as well as addressing a possible safety hazard.

10. CTT also made representations to OPW for the upkeep of the Gates at Castletown and the repair of bollards inside the Gates which had been damaged over time. We are delighted that OPW responded to our request and completed both these tasks, leading to an improvement in this important focal point of the Village.
11. In March 2015, work commenced on what had been a derelict site on the Maynooth Road for some years. CTT had made representations to KCC in the past for this unfinished building to be made safe and to be taken in hand and completed. This building will now be part of Oaklee Trust and its completion will address a prominent blemish on the built environment.
12. In April 2015 CTT made a pre-draft submission in relation to Kildare County Council Local Area Plan outlining our opinions on the development of the area. This is also referenced as a project in the Community Involvement and Planning category (item 3) since the LAP has significant implications for the community generally being a key strategic document to guide the future evolution of the area in a variety of respects in addition to the building and streetscape aspects. An excerpt from our submission, that highlights our main wishes, is as follows:-

“We would like to see the following as aims and objectives in the Celbridge-Castletown LAP 2016-2022:

- The preservation and presentation of the village (Main) street through the better enforcement of planning law, most especially with regard to signage and without its having to be signalled by a third party.
- Active encouragement to follow KCC’s excellent guidelines for shop fronts, possibly through grant aid.
- The continuation of the present undergrounding of service wires on the village street to include all services and on both sides of the street.
- Installation of new street lamp standards in keeping with the 18th century character of Celbridge.
- The installation of sensitive and harmonious street ‘furniture’.
- The planting of trees, where possible in the village street.
- Further enhancements of civic areas; in particular the Castletown Gates/Slip area and the area between the Mill and the mill race.
- Identification of further off-street parking areas and the securing of same.
- The removal of non-statutory, non-essential signage on the approaches and in the town.
- The taking over, by KCC, of all grass cutting on the approach roads.

We believe Celbridge is well endowed with natural and built heritage and that the Celbridge people appreciate and enjoy this. We work to further enhance this environment on a voluntary basis but we know that what we do is in keeping with the objectives of all the County and Local Area Plans to date. We would ask KCC to continue to support our efforts through formal recognition in the forthcoming LAP.”

13. On 31st July 2014, members of CTT committee participated in the launch of the Arthur's Way Greenway Project, a heritage trail across North Kildare which CTT has advanced and supported. This trail, which was the brainchild of a Celbridge resident, Stephen Leech, who broached the idea with CTT which adopted and promoted it and which was, in turn, subsequently taken forward by Kildare Failte, OPW and KCC. New signage has been erected in the village indicating the trail and an information panel has been erected in the Main St.

Arthur's Way Greenway Project to attract National and International tourists

by Laura Mc Loughlin

THE ARTHUR'S Way Greenway Project, a heritage trail across north Kildare, will attract both national and international tourists, according to the newly elected Mayor Fiona O'Loughlin (FF) who was speaking at the official launch of the project on Tuesday (17th June) at the Village at Lyons in Ardclough.

Mayor O'Loughlin was joined by Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport Alan Kelly, TD to promote the project which is due to be up and running by the end of August.

The trail, which signifies a €600,000 investment in the area, follows in the footsteps of Arthur Guinness and over 16km it links Celbridge, Leixlip and Ardclough.

"It is a great project, I picked it myself," said Minister Kelly.

"It links many of the historic sites associated with Ireland's most famous brewers - the Guinness family.

"Visitors are invited to explore Celbridge - where Arthur spent his childhood, Leixlip - the site of his first brewery and Oughterard graveyard - Arthur's final resting place near his ancestral home.

"Cycling is taking a transformation across Ireland and this is why we are launching this during National Bike Week.

"This project has huge potential, it is in a lovely part of the world.

"It has links with a larger project connected with Arthur Guinness and I am very happy to support it.

"There is a commitment to see it developed very quickly and the local authority is determined to get it delivered in a short space of time.

"I can see the potential to get tourists out of Dublin and into the spine of the country.

"It's great to come here. It's an absolutely amazing place to visit."

This was Minister Kelly's first time visiting the Lyons estate but he said he had a personal connection with the Ryan family, who recently put the property on the market, as they come from the same area as him in Tipperary.

"In the coming weeks, information panels will go into place along with a website, brochures and audio-guide," added Minister Kelly.

The trail begins from the confluence of the Liffey and Rye Rivers at Leixlip and the Castle town estate and into Celbridge.

It then joins the Grand Canal at Hazelhatch, passed Lyons Estate and the route turns for Oughterard.

A steering committee was involved in the development of the project including Kildare Fiddle and local groups such as the Tidy Towns.

"This is an important milestone," said Cllr Anthony Larkin (Ind), who was a member of the Steering committee.

"The Minister has given a good commitment to see this project through."

"The Steering committee which included Cllr Larkin and Cllr Padraig McElroy (Ind) have been working on this project for the last three years," said Phil Donnelly Strategic Activator at County Kildare Fáilte.

"It started from the ground up and involved the community working together.

"The Tidy Towns were key as well as the OPW and Patrick Guinness himself was involved as the ultimate custodian."

This was Mayor O'Loughlin's first formal event with a Government Minister since being elected and she said she was delighted it was an event that promoted tourism.

"I'm delighted that it is something like this that is encompassing tourism for

Kildare," said Mayor O'Loughlin.

"I think this is very opportune that it will tie in with the Guinness family who are not just central to Ireland for brewing but for tourism.

"It is a great project that will bring local, national and international tourists to the area."

School children from Ardclough National School were at the launch to see the new trail first hand.

Also present was Cllr Kevin Byrne (Lab), Cllr Naosie Ó Cearúil (FF), Emmet Stagg, TD (Lab), Temporary Chief Executive of Kildare County Council Eamonn O'Sullivan, Director of Services at the Transport Department Sonya Kavanagh and former Kildare County Council official Charlie Talbot.

"The idea has been there a long time and community and voluntary groups from Ardclough to Leixlip are supporting it," said Deputy Stagg.

"This is all about a local amenity and the kids here are starting to use it today. "The Greenway is working well in Mayo from Westport to Achill and my own family there use it all the time.

"There is small businesses popping up along it."



Pupils from Ardclough National School came to support the launch of the new cycle lane with Lord Mayor Fiona O'Loughlin and Minister of State at the Department for Transport, Tourism & Sport Alan Kelly.



(14) Kevin Byrne, Acting County Manager Eamonn O'Sullivan, Emmet Stagg, TD, Minister of State at the Department for Transport, Tourism & Sport Alan Kelly, Lord Mayor of Kildare Fiona O'Loughlin and Phil Donnelly (Fáilte Ireland). PCS: Niamh O'Reilly

- CTT has put forward proposals to develop boardwalk type footways at the Liffey Bridge (similar to a facility at Chapelizod, Dublin) to enhance the amenity value of the river and improve safety and pedestrian access to the Village. The proposal has been the subject of engagement with KCC and the National Transport Authority, particularly in the context of the latter's consideration of river crossing options. It is hoped to report progress on the approval and implementation of this project in the 2015/16 application.



Photo of one of the footways at Chapelizod

15. In the context of proposals by CTT and others to improve linkage between Castletown House and the Village, OPW agreement was obtained to the provision of directional sign from Castletown to the Village. Other possible measures to enhance linkage are being pursued, particularly through the Heritage Tourism Forum.
16. A further significant development in the context of efforts to improve linkage is the recent announcement of an agreement reached by Celbridge Community Council with a Novelty Tourist Train operator for a service between Castletown House and the Village which, is to be proposed to OPW. CTT will continue to work to explore further possible measures to enhance linkage and access, particularly through the Heritage Tourism Forum.
17. A very recent significant development has been the announcement of the re-opening of access to Celbridge Abbey an important local amenity and heritage site, a move which CTT has supported for some time.
18. In addition to the projects listed at 5 to 17 above, we would request particular consideration under the Built Environment and Streetscape category of project 2 listed in the Community Involvement and Planning category, the production of a draft Heritage Tourism Strategic Framework by CTT Heritage Tourism Sub-Committee. This project has particular significance for this category in terms of setting out a blueprint for the conservation and enhancement of the built environment and improvement of the streetscape.

CTT's 5-Year Plan 2015 Revision lists a number of further projects relating to the built environment and streetscape to be developed in the future. In addition to completion of the Village Enhancement Scheme, these include implementation of the Liffey Bridge project, further enhancement of heritage assets and local features and working with other groups and agencies to develop access to and linkage between key sites in the area.

Landscaping & Open Spaces:

Celbridge is fortunate to have one of the most extensive areas of public open space adjacent to any town of its size in Ireland in the form of Castletown Demesne, which is maintained and progressively improved by OPW, which CTT strongly supports. Many of the housing estates have generous green spaces which are generally maintained by individual residents association to a high standard, something which CTT encourages and promotes, not least through its successful annual tidy estates competition. The Workhouse Graveyard site, which CTT maintains, is both a valuable area of open space on the Maynooth Road as well as containing a memorial (which CTT helped to provide) to a sad aspect of our history. CTT is keen to explore possible options to create further areas of public open space, particularly in the Village and approach roads, and some proposals in this regard are featured in projects under.

We have also taken note of comments in previous adjudication reports regarding the importance of trees in enhancing the appearance and environment of the area. The avenue of trees along the approach roads, planted in the past years by CTT are doing very well. We will explore options for further tree planting, for example in the Village area on completion of the undergrounding work referenced in the preceding category.

Project List:

19. The grass verges and open spaces are maintained by CTT. This year we put this project out to tender having carefully mapped the areas which require cutting. From this tendering we now have a clear contract and clarity as to the areas requiring cutting.
20. The OPW has, this year, replaced some of the lime trees on the Avenue to Castletown House which had fallen and/or succumbed to disease over the years. CTT support this and all the other work undertaken by the OPW in Castletown Demesne, including the restoration of ponds, waterways, paths, and demesne features and particularly, the designation and mapping of a riverside walk through the demesne leading to the Village. CTT would like to see a link opened between the Castletown Demesne riverside walk and The Slip area and will pursue proposals in this regard in the context of the Heritage Tourism Forum and the development of The Slip enhancement project (item 22 under).
21. This Winter, CTT planted the flower boxes on the bridge with daffodils and pansies which produced a lovely spring display and which was matched by some of the hanging baskets in the business premises along the Main Street.
22. In consultation with KCC, we commissioned a landscape architect, Kate McDermott, to draw up a plan for the development of the area around The Slip by Christ Church, and the area around the footbridge and the Mill. The plan for the slip area has been accepted and its design work is currently being undertaken by the Council Engineering Department. Both these projects are on our five year plan.



Article in Liffey Champion re. redesign of the Slip and Mill area near footbridge.

23. We have also identified an open space along the Maynooth Road surrounding the Welcome Stone provided by CTT, which we wish to have developed as a wildlife space and small park. Discussions have already begun with KCC on this. The land is owned by KCC and they are fully behind this project and willing to fund it. The theme of the park will be based on the 100th year commemoration of the 1916 rising. Some design drawings for such a centennial park have already been discussed and we hope to have an agreed version soon.
24. In Summer 2014, CTT mounted a lovely display of flowers in tubs and hanging baskets, which was much appreciated by residents and visitors alike. Over the Winter months, the Floral Sub-Committee met with the contractor to plan the display for 2015. A number of tubs will have to be replaced and we also plan for an increase in their number. This is a project for which we will have to raise funds. The CTT summer floral display is greatly enhanced by the hanging baskets provided by the various businesses on their premises. CTT encourages this display by the awarding of prizes in the yearly "Best Floral Display" competition.
25. The Grotto, which was upgraded last year, has been replanted with extra perennial plants by the grotto committee and CTT this year. The main addition is a full border of Rozanne Geraniums which will likely take a year or two to get full impact.



Help from the Youth Café on 29th April in picking the 1000s of sycamore seedlings that sprouted.



Intel sponsored a garden enhancement project at the Mill which was opened last September 2014.

A number of projects relating to landscaping and open spaces are listed in the 5-Year Plan to be pursued in the future, notably implementation of The Slip and Mill environs projects, and development and landscaping of public space at the Maynooth Road Welcome Stone.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities:

CTT undertakes a variety of work to maintain and enhance natural amenities and help to protect and sustain a diversity of wildlife and the habitats which are critical to this. In addition, CTT aims to promote and enhance public awareness of the natural amenities and wildlife in their surrounds and to increase understanding of related issues such as biodiversity, through active engagement and making information available.

Project List:

26. In November 2014, the Conservation Management Plan for Tea Lane graveyard was published along with an Ecology Report by Micke Muylleart, Ecology Consultant. This report advised that the challenge and opportunity of the conservation project is to look after and enhance the natural heritage of Tea Lane, to avoid action which would harm the ecology of the site, to find out what is there and how to take care of it. As part of this study a bat survey was carried out in 2014 and the presence of a roost of common pipistrelle bats was confirmed inside the mausoleum. The conservation plan laid out when and how to remove trees and ivy from the graveyard without causing problems for the biodiversity of the area. This work was begun in the winter and will continue over the coming years. Bat boxes and bird boxes were erected with the aid of the scout troupe. Both these reports are available for the public to view on the CTT website and the Tea Lane Facebook page.





Some before and after photos above and also showing interest from youth groups.

27. In June 2014, CTT submitted a proposal for a Wildlife and Ecology Information Board, fully costed, to KCC as part of a competition among Tidy Towns groups in the county. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful on this occasion. However we continue to pursue funding for this project. The proposed site for this information Board is along the river on the Ardclough Rd. This would make an important contribution to enhancing awareness of wildlife and ecology in the area.
28. On Easter Monday 2015, a public walk was held along the banks of the canal, led by Breda Konstantin and Dr Karen Moore, Ecologist, to look at and learn about the flora and fauna of the area. Almost 100 people from Celbridge attended. The purpose was to raise awareness of the biodiversity of the canal and to raise funds for the Tea Lane Project.
29. On 10th December 2014, Australian Ecologist Dala Tredwell, who had been working with the students at St Wolstans School to help secure their 5th green flag for biodiversity, attended a flag raising ceremony at the school. The students held workshops on biodiversity during the year; they built an insect hotel and a raised flowerbed to attract insects and butterflies to the area, which was publicised by an article and photograph in the local newspaper.
30. Scoil na Mainstreach have continued their successful gardening project in the school grounds where they teach the children how to grow vegetables and plants. This project helps the children to be aware of biodiversity and the richness of their environment. They have also built a bug hotel in the school grounds which CTT has been nominated for the KCC best bug hotel competition 2015.
31. As part of Biodiversity Week On 20th May 2015, Ecologist Dr Declan Doogue led an informational walk in the grounds of Celbridge Abbey and generally around Celbridge. He identified the different flora and described each and also pointed out flowers and plants not indigenous to the area. It proved to be a very interesting evening.
32. It is also relevant to note a number of on-going projects which help to sustain wildlife, habitats and local amenities, such as roadside verge management, control of invasive species, following wildlife friendly planting practices, and maintaining a wildlife web page.

Proposals for projects in this area to be pursued in the future are listed in the 5-Year Plan, including provision of the interpretive sign referred to above, wildlife and diversity surveys and further information and awareness initiatives.

Sustainable Waste & Resource Management:

As well as undertaking projects to promote sustainable waste and resource management, including recycling and composting, CTT encourage all volunteers to be conscious of the need for waste minimisation, waste management and conservation.

Project List:

33. All 8 schools in the area continue to work within the Green Flag Programme. As mentioned above St Wolstan's school achieved their 5th flag and are now working on their 6th flag on the themes of global citizenship and waste. We support the schools in their endeavours, as we believe that, if they are well-informed, children will change the attitudes of parents and will themselves grow up to be more conscious of their environment.
34. All supermarkets in the community make available reusable shopping bags for supply to their customers with, thereby cutting down on the use of plastic bags, an objective which CTT strongly supports as we are keenly aware, particularly from our litter removal work, of the extent of nuisance which such bags can create, as well as the desirability of minimising their use in the interests of sustainability.
35. CTT is glad to report that there are three charity shops for resale of second-hand goods currently operating in Celbridge Main Street, which are very well supported by the community, through both the donation and purchase of goods.
36. Derrybeg farm, which was in its first year of production last year, has continued to develop and become established in the community. It has now 23 shareholders and also sells directly to the community. CTT supports this initiative on an on-going basis and a number of committee members are directly involved in the project.
37. CTT encourages all volunteers to set up water butts and to reuse water for their gardening and for watering the flowers in the village. We also encourage car-pooling when going out as a group to litter pick or for other activities. The committee has discussed with the contractor for the flower tubs and baskets, arrangements for the planting of flowers that require the least watering and maintenance, for example, the planting of geraniums on the Liffey Bridge.
38. The volunteers who regularly collect litter on the main roads separate the recyclable waste and put it in the recyclable bins at Tesco. Celbridge has been the top performer for a number of years in the waste collected by Rehab at the Tesco recycle bank. The WEEE electrical recycle collection was held again this year in April and once again yielded a large collection of disposed goods.
39. The Mill Fitness & Community Centre has, for a number of years, generated its own electricity. On average they generate 30% of their own needs annually and also contribute to the National Grid for which they receive payment. In August they held an open day during heritage week to let the public know how this operates. CTT promotes awareness of this as a relatively unusual example of good resource management and optimisation, located in a heritage setting, and combining traditional with modern technology.
40. The presence of cycle lanes on the roads around the village and estates has encouraged many people to cycle for business and pleasure, and for more children to cycle to school. CTT encourages the development of more cycle lanes and facilities, including the possible development of a bike hire services to facilitate linkage between Castletown House and the Village and with other heritage sites in the area. In a recent study it showed that two schools in Celbridge scored well above the national average of bikes to school. North Kildare Educate Together has 14.4% of its 223 students arriving on two wheels, while the Salesians school have 139 out of 643, or almost 22%.

Tidiness & Litter Control:

The main overall objectives in this category are to address and prevent litter and enhance tidiness and the appearance and environment generally of streets and open spaces, including minimisation of clutter and other factors which detract from the appearance and quality of the area. Being a core element of CTT's activities, many of the projects in this category are on-going in nature rather than being specific to a particular year. They also impact on other categories, notably maintenance and presentation of residential streets and housing areas and of approach roads, streets and lanes.

Project List:

41. The removal of the majority of the Eircom overhead wiring, (as mentioned above, no 5 in the Built Environment & Streetscape category), and the removal of the unsightly poles and of parking signs (19 removed) and telephone kiosks, has already made a major contribution to enhancement of the Village streetscape by the reduction of clutter from the Main Street. The commencement of this project is our major achievement under a number of categories this year. We look forward to the completion of the current phase and continue to work on the removal of the electric wiring and undertaking further phases of the overall Village enhancement scheme, as outlined in our 5-Year Plan.



These photos were used as part of our campaign to get more pressure on undergrounding of wiring. To date 9 of the eircom poles have been removed and we look forward to the removal of the remaining 4 on the Main St. area.

42. Following representations from CTT, Kildare County Council arranged for the removal of chewing gum from the Main Street. This was completed on 8th May. Through publicity for this project we hope that there will be less occurrence of this problem in the future.
See over for photo in Liffey Champion:-

Steam-cleaned and scrubbed...

Celbridge footpaths are freed of discarded chewing gum eyesore

by Kim McElaney

THE pavements of Celbridge have been steam-cleaned of their unsightly chewing gum in the past week.

It had been the amount of discarded chewing gum that adjudicators for the National Tidy Towns Contest mentioned on it.

The work on removing the gum from the Celbridge footpaths began on 5th May and concluded last Friday week (10th May).

Tom Waters, who was contracted to carry out the work, did it painstakingly and much to the satisfaction of the local tidy towns committee.

Local Tidy Towns Committee secretary Mary Cummins is hopeful that the cleaning will help Celbridge improve its position in the national competition.

"We have got better in the last two years and we are hoping now to get silver," she said.

The last of the chewing gum was steam-cleaned and vigorously brushed from pavements at the junction of Dublin Road and Main Street.

"It was very unsightly and we hope that people will appreciate the work that went into removing it," added Ms Cummins.

"The judges will pick on it and they would comment on it."

Cllr Frank O'Rourke has supported the Tidy Town



Cllr Frank O'Rourke (l-r), Celbridge Tidy Towns Secretary Mary Cummins, contractor Tom Waters, Tidy Towns Chairperson Michael Connolly and committee member June Stewart on the final day of cleaning chewing gum from footpaths on Main Street.

Committee's efforts which was undertaken under the guidance of Joe Boland, Kildare County Council Director of Services.

"This is a project I have been looking to have done for some time to bring an

overall improvement to Celbridge," said Cllr O'Rourke.

"The local community as well as tourists to the town hopefully will see the improvements. A project like this underpins the work that is carried out by

the Celbridge Tidy Towns committee."

To ensure that old habits don't continue to foul the pavements, Cllr O'Rourke asked pedestrians to "ensure that those bins are used to keep the standard

high after the cleaning."

Cllr O'Rourke says, now that Celbridge has been rid of its discarded chewing gum, he would like to help the Tidy Towns Committee in looking deal with a similar problem.

43. After a number of years of representations from CTT, KCC have now agreed to remove a number of the parking signs on the Main Street, with 19 signs in all being removed in May 2015. Eircom also removed two of the telephone boxes from the Main Street. These two measures, along with the Eircom undergrounding project have brought about a major improvement in the tidiness and appearance of the historic Village streetscape. We are very pleased with this move in the right direction, which will be further advanced when the overall Village enhancement project is completed.
44. As mentioned above (item 6), we have taken various steps to encourage local businesses to remove unsightly advertising and signage from the shop fronts. One way we do this is through our competitions for "Best Shop Front" and "Best Floral Display". In 2014, we increased the number of categories in these competitions thereby involving more businesses. The prize winners are always keen to display their awards. Our awards night was held in the library 16th October 2014 and was very well attended.
See over for Liffey Champion photo on awards night.

result was achieved.

"We have awards for 'Best Commercial Premises' in recognition of the fact that a lot of people have done a lot of hard work."

"A lot of work has been done by the Celbridge Business Association bringing much improvement to the town."

Additional awards

Ms Cummings explained that there were additional awards in each category for the businesses this year because of this and that they were judged on everything from flowers and the building itself to signage and window displays.

The first award to be handed out was for 'Best Business/Shop Front'.

Commended went to Athena Hair Studio and La Prima Brea and Highly Commended went to Absolutely Fabulous Flowers, Hogan's Café Bistro and Cunningham's Funeral Home.

'Best New Entry' went to Bella Mia Boutique and 'Most Improved' went to Top of the Town.

"There is a joint second place," explained Ms Cummings.

"One of the things that we were looking at was that they remain unique buildings."

"One was built in 1750 and is maintained beautifully. They have wonderful signage in keeping with the architecture."

"And the other is a new building on the other side of the town that looks very well."

"It is very important that they remain as they are," she said before announcing that second place went to Jas-scene House and Bank Of Ireland.

First place went to Michelangelo Restaurant for the third year in a row and David Rubino from Michelangelo's accepted the Larry O'Toole



Overall best Estate: St Wolstan's Abbey (l-r) Michael Connolly (Chair of Celbridge Tidy Towns), Mary Archbold (Celbridge Tidy Towns), Sean Carthy (St Wolstan's Abbey) and Clir Frank O'Hourke (Sponsor of best overall estate award).



(l-r) Susan Norris (Best New Entry Bella Mia Boutique), David Rubino, Michelangelo (1st Place Best Business & Shop Front), Michael Connolly (Chair of Celbridge Tidy Towns), Gary Bird (BOI 3rd Place in Best Business/Shop Front).



Small Estates Awards: (l-r) Gemma Sheehan (Celbridge Tidy Towns), Dorothy Kiely (2nd Place Grattan Court), Paul Brett (2nd Place Killadoon Park), Eamon Farrell (1st Place Little Grove) and Iris Jones (3rd Place Simonstown Park).



Best Medium Estates: (l-r) Stephen Gray (2nd Place Temple Manor), Kevin Dunne (1st Place Celbridge Abbey), and Catherine O'Connell (3rd place Ballygoran View/Court).

45. In relation to poster control, our volunteers remove posters after the event advertised has taken place. We also contact the owners and ask them to remove their posters.
46. Our litter control programme has continued as in previous years. We have a very successful Sunday morning rota for a litter pick on the Main Street before people come out in the morning to attend church and other business. The rota operates on a 7-week cycle and is resourced in all by about 30 volunteers. This programme, which has been in operation since 2006, is very much appreciated within the community. We also have a Saturday morning clean up but operated by a single team.

Sunday Morning Village Cleaning Rota

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6	Team 7
11th Jan 15	18th Jan 15	25th Jan 15	1st Feb 15	8th Feb 15	15th Feb 15	22nd Feb 15
1st Mar 15	8th Mar 15	15th Mar 15	22nd Mar 15	29th Mar 15	5th Apr 15	12th Apr 15
19th Apr 15	26th Apr 15	3rd May 15	10th May 15	17th May 15	24th May 15	31st May 15
7th June 15	14th June 15	21st June 15	28th June 15	5th July 15	12th July 15	19th July 15
26th July 15	2nd Aug 15	9th Aug 15	16th Aug 15	23rd Aug 15	30th Aug 15	6th Sept 15
13th Sept 15	20th Sept 15	27th Sept 15	4th Oct 15	11th Oct 15	18th Oct 15	25th Oct 15
1st Nov 15	8th Nov 15	15th Nov 15	22nd Nov 15	29th Nov 15	6th Dec 15	13th Dec 15
20th Dec 15	27th Dec 15	3rd Jan 16	10th Jan 16	17th Jan 16	24th Jan 16	31st Jan 16

47. Litter patrols are undertaken by designated volunteers being responsible for each of the main roads and doing regular pickups. As mentioned above waste, is segregated during those pickups.
48. Our annual Tidy Estate Competition has a category on litter control. Judges in this competition have remarked on an improvement in litter control within the estates.

CELBRIDGE TIDY TOWN'S ANNUAL AWARDS

St Wolstan's Abbey dubbed 'Best Estate' in Celbridge

by Sarah Breen

THE efforts put in by the residents of St Wolstan's Abbey in making the estate look its best were acknowledged at Celbridge Tidy Town's Annual Awards in Celbridge Library last Thursday evening week (18th October) when the estate was awarded 'Overall Best Estate'.

Along with the awards for Best Small Estate, Best Medium Estate and Best Large Estate, there were also awards handed out for the efforts put in by the businesses of the town and those were the first awards to be handed out on the night.

The Secretary of the Celbridge Tidy Town Association, Mary Cummins, acted as MC for the night and welcomed everyone who attended including Ernest Sinag, TD (Lab), Bernard Durkin, TD (FG), Catherine Murphy, TD (Ind), local councillors, Frank O'Rourke (FF), Kevin Byrne (Lab) and Joe Cusson (SF), as well as former Chairperson of the Celbridge Tidy Town Association, Tony Maher.

"It was good news we won another bronze medal this year for the national 'Tidy Towns Competitively' said Ms Cummins, who added that it was thanks to the hard work of the

Cup on behalf of the restaurant.

"We'll put the trophy in the window again," said Mr. Sinag proudly.

The next award was for 'Best Floral Display' and Ms Cummins remarked that there were flowers everywhere so it was very hard to make the decision.

"Sadly the judges for the national Tidy Town Competition arrived too early," she explained.

"It was obvious from their report that they had come before all of the flowers had bloomed."

"If they'd come a month later I'm sure we would have got the silver medal."

High Commended went to Stephen Juge from Liffey View Physiotherapy and to Colortrend.

Ms Cummins applauded Mr Juge for putting seven to eight baskets of flowers outside the building even though he doesn't own the building and she said that Colortrend always has a nice flower display.

Third place went to Centra, with Margaret Lynch collecting the award, second place went to Castletown Inn, with Noel Shortt collecting the award and first place for 'Best Floral Display' went to the Abbey Lodge, with Deirdre McNamee collecting the

award.

An award for Artistic Endeavour went to Mick O'Dwyer and Lee Pether for St Patrick's Church and a Village Enhancement Award was given to The Mill for the development of the building and the work that has been done at the riverbank.

Mairéad Byrne collected the award on behalf of The Mill and remarked that it was a "big surprise" and that The Mill has put in a lot of work.

Estates

The next awards were to acknowledge all of the work put in by residents of Celbridge with categories for Best Small, Medium and Large Estates.

In the category of Best Small Estate, third place went to Sionmestown Park, second place went to Killadown Park and Graetan Court and first place went to Little Grove, with Emma Furell collecting the award for the estate.

For Best Medium Estate, third place went to Ballyporeen View Court, second place went to Temple Manor and first place went to Celbridge Abbey, with Kevin Denne collecting the award.

In the category of Best Large Estate, third place went to

Abbey Farm, second place went to Franciscan Gate and first place went to St Wolstan's Abbey.

St Wolstan's Abbey was also named 'Overall Best Estate' and the award was collected by Sean Carr.

Chairperson of the Celbridge Tidy Town Association, Michael Connolly, informed everyone that the prize for the overall winner had been sponsored by Cllr Frank O'Rourke.

Ms Cummins thanked Kildare County Council and the councillors for the start of the underpinning of the over-head wires in Celbridge, which will improve the appearance of the town, and Mr Connolly specifically thanked Cllr O'Rourke for "kick starting the whole thing".

Ms Cummins also thanked Celbridge Library for hosting the award ceremony.

Cllr O'Rourke congratulated Celbridge Tidy Town Association after the event for "being an excellent award ceremony" in the library.

The Tidy Town Association have been doing this award ceremony for years acknowledging the residents and businesses, the work that they do," said Cllr O'Rourke.

"Although they have no direct funding for these awards, they nevertheless

work to deliver them every year.

"It's great to see the estates paying so much detail and giving so much time to maintaining a high standard."

He complimented everyone in the town who has put resources into keeping it looking good, when funding has been so scarce and to have achieved a bronze medal in the Tidy Town Awards.

"We'll all be working very hard to get a silver medal next year," he affirmed.

"I work closely with Celbridge Tidy Town Association and I am delighted to have sponsored the prize for Overall Best Estate."



Village Enhancement Award for The Mill was received by Mairéad Byrne. Pic: Niamh O'Reilly



25th October 2014

Celbridge Tidy Towns Annual Awards 2014

Best Floral display:

- 1st Abbey Lodge
- 2nd Castletown Inn
- 3rd Centra

Highly Commended

Colortrend
Liffey View Physiotherapy

Best Business/Shop Front:

- 1st Michelangelo Restaurant
- 2nd Jassamine House
- 3rd Bank of Ireland

Highly Commended

Absolutely Fabulous Flowers
Hogan's Café Bistro
Cunningham's Funeral Home

Commended

Athena Hair Studio & La Prima Rosa

Most Improved

Top of The Town

Best New Entry

Bella Mia Boutique

Artistic Endeavour

St. Patrick's Church

Village Enhancement Award

The Mill

Best Large Estates:

1st: St. Wolstan's Abbey

2nd: Primrose Gate

3rd: Abbey Farm

Best Medium Estates:

1st: Celbridge Abbey

2nd: Temple Manor

3rd: Ballygoran View/Court

Best Small Estates:

1st: Little Grove

2nd: Killadoon Park & Grattan Court

3rd: Simmonstown Park

***** Overall Best Estate – St. Wolstan's Abbey *****

Each estate also gets a short report – E.G.

Abbey Farm 89 points

The estate has an excellent tasteful display at its entrance. All the green areas are well maintained and there was no evidence of litter. The 'Caution' sign on the main drive seems to have been freshened up. Overall this is a well-kept estate and a place its residents should be proud of.

49. As in previous years, special "clean ups" were again organised following the St Patrick's Day parade and the Celbridge Street Festival. While these were effective, the Committee has reviewed aspects of their organisation with a view to making further improvements in future.

Future action in this area will focus primarily on continuation, and where possible improvement, of currently effective activities and arrangements, as well as completion of the undergrounding project and related works and certain specific measures listed for future action in the 5-Year Plan, such as the provision of further dog-litter stations, seeking agreement of political parties to keeping the Village a "poster-free zone" during the next general election, and advocating for further improvement in local authority follow up to complaints.



As part of tidiness we have carried out 4 litter clean-ups in the woods, since Dec 2014, between the Maynooth Rd. and Castletown House area. The most recent was with the help of staff from Intel.

Residential Street's & Housing Areas:

Celbridge has grown in recent decades from a small village with a population of 1,568 in 1971 into a large conurbation which now has a population of around 20,000. There are 42 housing estates in the area. Fortunately, however it has managed to retain intact as its central core the historic Village, with the estates and a wider network of roads built around it.

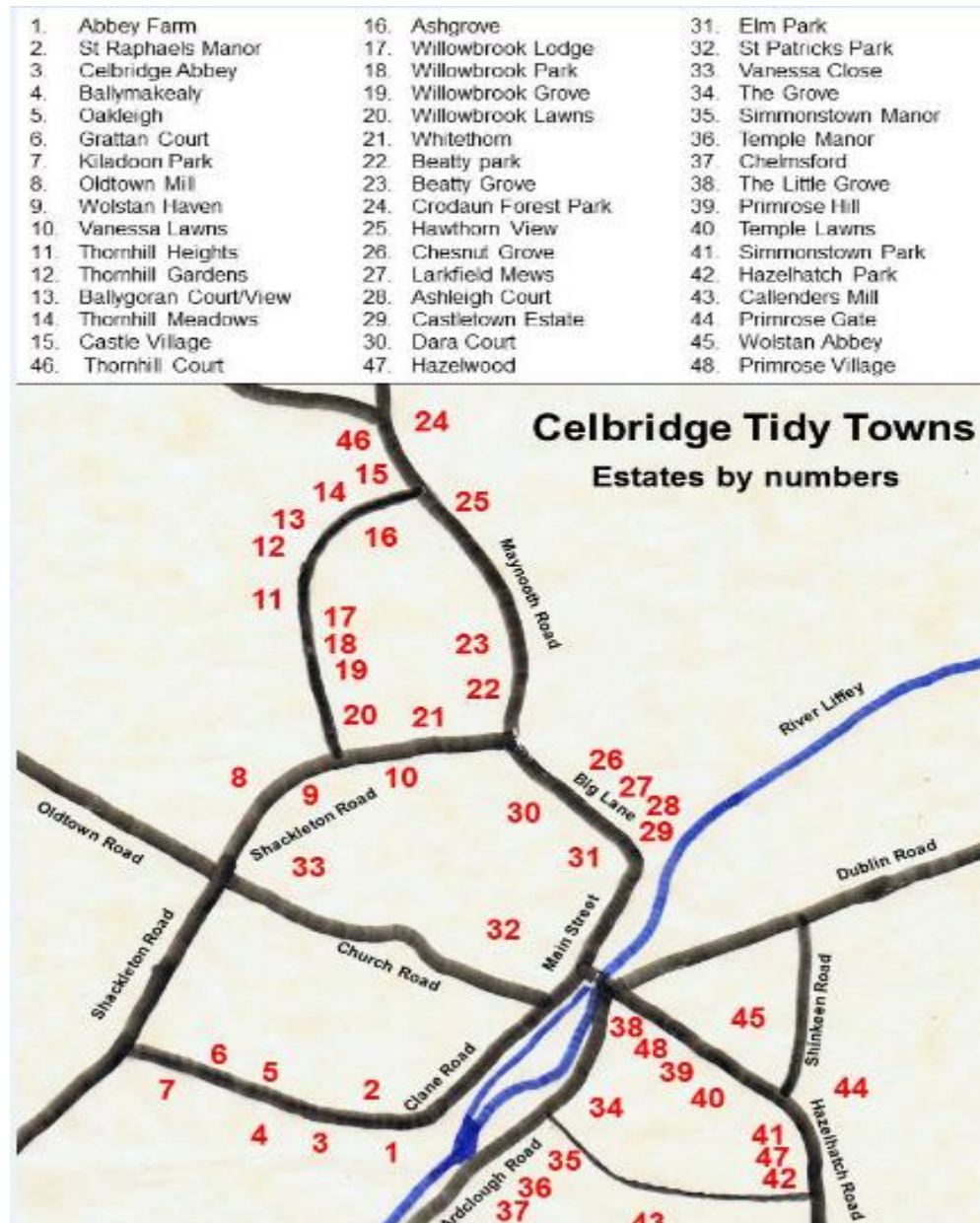
Engagement with the residents associations is a key mechanism for promoting tidy towns objectives and mobilising efforts in the various housing estates. In most of the housing estates the green areas are well maintained and cut regularly. This is organised by the individual Resident's Associations who generally receive a small grant from KCC to assist with this. CTT strongly encourages KCC on an on-going basis to maximise its role and assistance grass cutting and landscaping work generally. As indicated in the 5-Year Plan update, we intend to explore ways of further strengthening the level of engagement with residents associations.

While a significant proportion of premises in the Village/Main Street is now devoted to commercial activity, there remains an important residential component, particularly in the form of "over the shop" residential units. Action by CTT to maintain and improve the village area, particularly as outlined above in the built environment/streetscape, and tidiness categories, is particularly beneficial to this important residential element of Celbridge.

Project List:

50. The young children's play area near Aghards School, which had a problem in recent years due to vandalism and the congregation of older youths, has had a revamp this year. Following representations from the local residents and from CTT, a caretaker on a community employment scheme has been appointed to care for it. This has made a great difference for parents with young children who wish to use it.
51. Following representations from Celbridge Guided Tours and local representatives, St John of God Order has agreed to reopen Celbridge Abbey to the public. They have built a new playground there which should be a significant benefit to people in the town's residential streets and housing areas. We very much look forward to these beautiful grounds, which have a particular literary and historical significance by virtue of the Jonathan Swift connection, being enjoyed by all, both Celbridge residents and also the increasing number of visitors who are attracted to the town by its range of heritage sites and historical associations.
52. As mentioned previously (item 11 in the Built Environment & Streetscape category), a derelict unfinished apartment block on the Maynooth Rd has now been taken over and is being completed. Additionally there are a number of new developments, abandoned in the wake of the housing market collapse, under construction in Celbridge. We hope that all unfinished estates will be completed at an early date, enhancing the environment of the relevant streets or housing areas.
53. The Tidy Estate Competition which CTT organises each year has been referenced above in the context of litter. However, it has wider significance as an important means of promoting good upkeep of, and enhancement of the appearance of, housing areas generally. It is also a valuable vehicle for engagement of residents associations and thereby promoting tidy towns awareness among them and mobilising their support for the tidy towns effort. The 48 estates are divided into large, medium and small for the purposes of judging by CTT Committee members. Feedback and advice is provided to assist improvements and an awards night helps to encourage effort and

promote awareness.



Guide to housing estates in Celbridge

54. As in previous years, Inter-Estate Table Quizzes were held and were very well supported, making an important contribution to CTT fund raising as well as an opportunity to get across our message to residents throughout the town.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes:

As is the case with the preceding Residential Streets and Housing Areas category, various projects and activities under other categories, particularly in relation to the built environment and streetscape and tidiness and litter control, are of significant benefit to the presentation and appearance of approach roads, streets and lanes. Some further specific items of relevance are listed under.

Project List:

55. As in previous years, CTT has continued with its periodic litter pick on the approach roads to the village. This litter pick goes as far as the roundabout on the N4; the T junction on the Maynooth Rd; the Clane Road to Ardrass and the Lucan Rd to the Fáilte sign. A key purpose of this is to present a good image of Celbridge as people journey towards the village.
56. Within the village streets, we try to maintain the verges weed free. In the past year we encouraged the county council engineering department to become involved in the Gateway Scheme for the Celbridge Area. This commenced before the New Year and is proving very helpful with projects in this category. CTT works in partnership with the local engineer on projects suitable for this scheme.
57. The landscape of Celbridge is strongly influenced by stone. Our natural limestone is seen throughout our historic village - in the bridges, mill, churches, weirs and houses - but nowhere more importantly than in our walls, which draw the visitor into the village along the approach roads. As mentioned above CTT worked to have the wall on the Donacomper Estate repaired. Not only has this been done, but the stonework has been restored to a high standard, significantly enhancing the entrances to the town on the key approach road from Dublin. CTT will pursue further wall repair/enhancement works on approach roads, as necessary, one possible area for attention being near the petrol station on the Dublin road.
58. We have been in consultation with Kildare County Council regarding landscaping of the roundabout on the Newcastle Road near Hazelhatch station. KCC have agreed to develop a landscaping plan for this area. We will continue to consult as the plan goes to tender.
59. As indicated at project 23, the development of an area of open space at Maynooth Road Welcome Stone site is being pursued with KCC. As well as adding to the availability of open space and wildlife habitats, this project will also enhance the Maynooth Road approach to the town, particularly through proposed landscaping and planting on the site.
60. As mentioned previously in this submission, CTT has on-going dialogue with Celbridge Business Association and Kildare County Council regarding the maintenance of proper frontage, in keeping with the heritage of the buildings, of the properties on the Main Street.