

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: Macroom - Maigh Chromtha	Ref: 183
County: Cork(South)	Mark: 386
Category: D	Date(s): 08/07/2025

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	54	55
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	54	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	45	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	27	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	42
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	43
TOTAL MARK	550	377	386

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór.

You have provided a very detailed submission for this year's competition, and I was pleased to note the inclusion of a report on last year's adjudicator's suggestions – well done. Your 42 years in the competition are clearly reflected in the level of organisation and experience you bring to your work. It is particularly impressive to see how many different associations you have involvement with. Your use of a shopfront on the main street is an excellent initiative. In many rural towns vacant premises are an unfortunate reality, so it is refreshing to see one being turned to your advantage. This serves as a constant reminder of your presence. The strong links you have established with your local schools are another positive, and I was pleased to note the submissions included from the two schools in your application. It is also most encouraging to see John Lyons acting as your Climate Ambassador – a recommendation often made to groups but not always achieved in practice. Maith an fear, John! Your major project this year, the Tom Creedon Cycle Path, is a truly valuable addition to the town and will provide long-term benefit to the community. Congratulations on this achievement, and continued success to you all.

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

You have a natural square between the Town Hall and the AIB Bank which has great potential, though unfortunately the space has been largely taken up by a car park for 32 vehicles. This is a missed opportunity for a more vibrant public realm, which could include well-planted beds, seating, sculptures, and appropriate lighting. Some buildings along Castle Street and Main Street remain closed, which is a common challenge in many towns, but it is positive to see active local businesses and the Tidy Towns window display, which raises awareness daily. There are four Sorbus trees planted, of which one is dead and the others appear to be struggling. Additionally, there is a dead tree in the island area. Consider introducing more robust street tree species to enhance the streetscape. Regarding Main Street, there is currently a base layer of tarmac with spray markings. You have mentioned ongoing works in your submission, and it is hoped that these will create opportunities to soften and improve the street's appearance. There are some lovely murals around the town, particularly on gables and in the lane to the vets, and I especially like the house decorated with daisies in Masseytown. Continue these creative projects where possible, including on service boxes. Despite the number of closed shops, the Main Street still presents as a colourful and clean thoroughfare. One area to consider enhancing is the back of the Vodafone shop on the approach to Middle Square, as it currently detracts from the overall streetscape.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Town Park is truly a jewel in the centre of Macroom and its value cannot be overstated. The walks through the castle grounds are a wonderful amenity, with the main information sign at the entrance setting the tone; however, smaller directional signs further along would help visitors navigate more easily. The circular seat at this point might be better positioned, and the box planting in its centre—as well as the similar planters in the square—could be refreshed with more attractive perennial, scented plants. The walk itself is very pleasant and clearly appreciated, with many walkers present on the day of adjudication, and its role as a biodiversity haven is commendable. Some picnic benches would benefit from attention, while the footbridge sign is partly obscured by nettles and should be cleared. The new cycleway is an excellent project, and the provision of bins and well-stocked Mutt Mitt dispensers is praiseworthy. The balance of mowing to allow meadow growth in the park is evident and could be extended further. At the cul-de-sac where the path ends, consider adding a seat here to make sense of the path ending abruptly. The small, raised stone bed under mature trees could be removed, while the exit beds and semi-circular bed near the Town Hall would benefit from perennial planting. The four beds outside the castle entrance, currently with Buxus in the centre, could also be enhanced with additional planting. The seating area beside the closed O’Riada’s pub needs renewal, and further benches along the riverside walk would complement the excellent labelling of native trees here. This additional seating would allow the visitor to rest and enjoy the fine views of the bridge and its arches. The Fairy Garden itself is enchanting and a credit to all involved, with scope to add to the play experience through donations of trikes or other play items for children, who are fortunate to enjoy such a space.

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

You have many excellent initiatives underway in this category and you deservedly score very well in your region. The Gearagh Nature Reserve, the biodiversity garden in Colman’s Park, and the wooded grounds below the castle provide wonderful opportunities for biodiversity to flourish, and the information displayed on site is both informative and engaging. Monitoring of Japanese knotweed, particularly along the riverbank, should continue, and where bird boxes have been installed it would be worthwhile to track activity levels. I am sure the swarm of bees on the steel pole caused quite a stir at the time! Opportunities remain to strengthen planting—such as by adding perennials to the large bed at the Town Park entrance—using pollinators.ie as a guide. Greater use of perennials will also support your sustainability goals by reducing the need for annual purchases and allowing propagation. Extending meadow growth beyond “No Mow May” will encourage later-flowering species to thrive, adding further biodiversity value. Housing estates too could benefit from this approach, with the introduction of fruit trees, wild areas, and the use of native species rather than Cherry Laurel. Your continued engagement with local schools and the addition of a climate ambassador is invaluable in ensuring that biodiversity awareness and practice are carried into the future.

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

You have included a wide range of impressive initiatives under this heading, with several new and particularly noteworthy additions. The Rainwater Harvesting project is of great interest, and further detail on its location and level of household or business involvement would be welcome. The success of the students from St. Mary’s in reaching the Young Environmentalists Finals is a great achievement—well done and best of luck in the competition. Your partnership with Danone is also commendable, particularly in terms of their support on renewable energy and the auditing of savings achieved through the solar farm, which will serve as clear evidence of the practical benefits of sustainability. With such a broad portfolio of projects, you are well placed to share your experience more widely, and hosting workshops or information sessions for schools, businesses, and community groups could further strengthen Macroom’s leadership role in sustainability and biodiversity.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

I was very impressed with how clean the town looked during my visit. There was no litter to be seen, and all the bins were well maintained. The Mutt Mitt stations were fully stocked, and the parks and green areas were free of debris. Congratulations to everyone who is contributing to keeping the town in such excellent condition. Maintaining cleanliness in an urban environment can be challenging due to high foot traffic, public activities, and everyday waste. Effective litter management involves regular collection schedules, ensuring bins are easily accessible and well-maintained, and engaging the community in keeping public spaces clean. Visible initiatives, like the new road sweeper, make a noticeable difference. It is clear that a well-organised team, working alongside the TUS and RSS workers, is achieving a high standard. Continuing these practices and promoting public awareness will help sustain a clean, welcoming urban environment. Keep up the excellent work.

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

The residential streets of your town present a colourful and eclectic mix of houses, with some particularly attractive terraces, such as those in Masseytown, adding great charm. Progress on addressing derelict properties is noted and should continue. Among the estates visited, Gleann an Fia is well maintained with attractive tree planting, and it is commendable that the grass along the boundary fence is left long to connect with the adjoining fields—consider extending this further to create a biodiversity corridor. Lios na Fia requires additional attention, as weedy kerbs and roughly cut grass detract from its overall appearance. Ros Alainn is welcoming, with a fine bank of native trees at the entrance and a well-maintained green space, though the replacement of dead sorbus trees with apple trees could add biodiversity and interest. An Gortín Rua demonstrates how effective tree planting can soften a housing estate, while the new estate Rás an Mullan looks very well with good tree planting and neat presentation.

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

You have always paid close attention to your approach roads and continue to perform very well in this category in 2025. Approach roads are so important in setting the scene for visitors, and your work ensures a very positive first

impression. The Clondroighread road was in excellent condition, while the roundabout at Hartnetts Cross looked particularly well—thanks are due to Cygnum for their sponsorship here. It is encouraging to see local businesses supporting your work, and you might consider widening this sponsorship to include additional companies, many of whom are happy to commit on a multi-year basis. The continued efforts of Foroige at the graveyard are much appreciated, and we look forward to the results of the already funded project at the picnic area in Coolgower, a long-held ambition of your group. Well done also on the standard of presentation along The Western Way, and as further planting is introduced, the inclusion of pollinator-friendly perennials and shrubs will enhance both appearance and biodiversity.

Concluding Remarks:

You have a long and proud history of participation in the Tidy Towns Competition, and your commitment is clearly evident again this year. Well done on your efforts to continually explore new ways to develop and enhance Macroom—your dedication and community spirit are truly commendable.