Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Chapeltown - An Caol (Baile an tSéipéil)**	Ref:	**331**
County:	**Kerry**	Mark:	**322**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**10/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**310**	**322**

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.
Welcome to the 2025 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. We are delighted to have you back for your 29th year in the competition and it is great to hear how it has benefited the local community with a cleaner environment as well as the knowledge sharing the longer serving members have passed on to the younger generation around sustainability and biodiversity.
You meet regularly to organise activities and have a committee of 8 and 5 volunteers. The addition of 3 younger members this year and several Ukrainians volunteers will boost your chances of achieving your goals with more skills, expertise and manpower at your disposal.
We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of Kerry County Council, South Kerry Partnership, Asana International School, Valentia Development Company, Pobal and the CE scheme who demonstrate their commitment to the village through financial and practical assistance. Meetings, phone calls, messages, WhatsApp, Facebook and Notice Board are effective for sharing information about the group's activities.
The youth are playing their part with many school children participating in organized litter events and the principal has updated you on various projects he is implementing in the school. The active participation of teenagers can play a significant role in encouraging others to get involved and inspire younger children to see the value and positive impact of volunteering.
The river offers opportunity for various recreational activities and the clearing of pathways, installation of new owl boxes, the removal of gunnera and a new seating area create a picturesque setting and enhance the quality of life for residents. Great work everyone involved – we found this area a lovely place to relax and it promoted a sense of calm.

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

As we approach the village Valentia Young Islanders GAA appears great in yellow and red with nice wall planters and looks like it has a strong presence in the community. The new bike stand is a great opportunity to increase physical activity and promote a healthy lifestyle and we hope it will encourage more members to get active and travel sustainability.
The Ring Lyne Bar and Restaurant blends well with its local surroundings and lovely stone walls and beds of white roses nearby enjoy good maintenance. Green umbrellas and seating area is desirable.
The impact of art installation to improve vacant buildings makes them more appealing and we appreciate the visual appeal of colourful machinery in the front area.

A well-maintained church environment reflects respect for its community and it contributes to a welcoming atmosphere promoting a sense of wellbeing. Red door looks inviting.
The river area is nicely integrated into public space and promotes appreciation for the natural area. The landscaping and street furniture enhance the overall beauty of the location. Once again smart red railings add vibrancy to the area. Highlighting local wildlife on information boards creates awareness and interest.
The Bean A Chaoil commemoration reminds us of those responsible for managing water years ago and how fortunate we are to have clean water access close to home and around the clock.
Valentia Sports, Gym & Community Centre has nice planters. The school grounds are well maintained and summer planters are pretty.
We welcome your tree planting initiatives in Geokaun View and 65 hydrangeas in the village. They will add beauty to the neighbourhood not to mention their increasing importance to combat the effects of climate change and supporting native wildlife. We applaud your participation in National Tree Week and encourage more residents to plant up for next year's initiative.
The treatment of invasive species requires careful planning and can be a long-term process. While herbicides can be effective, they should be considered a last resort after other control methods have been evaluated by a professional. Public awareness is crucial in preventing the spread by encouraging early detection and promoting responsible behaviour and we acknowledge your efforts to foster support for management efforts.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Geokaun View is investing in native tree planting to help create welcoming spaces and deliver climate resilience. Roadside verges planted with hydrangeas will make a major statement with ample irrigation and good mulching to cool the roots. Pruning will be necessary to help keep the landscaping in line. Trees replanted at the back of the church will need to be kept weed free until they settle in. Investment in the environment pays for itself overtime.
The school children are more engaged in outdoor learning and they are reaping the benefits of integrating outdoor lessons into the curriculum with the willow domes. It's an easy and affordable way for them to be active and will boost their mental health.
One of your best green spots is the river with a beautiful walkway. Ensure landscaping is keep trimmed so paths are accessible.
The GAA club is central to the community and is an active green space. Do inform us of anymore initiatives they have undertaken to enhance biodiversity and sustainability.
Great work everyone who participated in work in this category.

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

A brilliant bee hotel made by one of your committee members is an ecofriendly habitat for solitary bees. It's a really good recycling project and its well assembled.
More owl and bat boxes along the river will be addition as both bats and certain species of owls consume insects found near rivers.
Planting fruit trees will provide a local source of nutritious food in the near future and spring and summer flowering bulbs will support biodiversity and look amazing when in flower. We have noted your preference to purchase native wildflower mixes and locally sourced trees.
Let us know of any wildlife surveys completed.

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

We acknowledge the installation of 14 solar panels in the school and it has a Solar smart energy management system. Students are gaining a deeper understanding of renewable energy technologies and as schools are high energy consumers it should offer them reduced utility costs which can be redirected towards educational programs, resources and/or infrastructure improvements.
We applaud the SPHE program aimed to equip students promoting well being and responsible citizenship. Let us know which Green Flag they are working towards?
As last years adjudicator advised a bike stand has been installed and a Family Biking events would make an excellent sustainability projects and inspire people to adopt more sustainable habits. We note the collaboration with Valentia Island Development Company and thank them for their support.
We applaud the involvement of teenage volunteers and we see that her chats on the environments and litter picking activities are building a brighter future for the entire community. Excellent work.
We note rain water harvesting and the placement of old tyres to protect young trees.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Our first impression of the village is how well it presents and the care and attention to footpaths, roads, signage, street furniture and bin maintenance.
A big turnout for the National Spring Clean is noteworthy and we thank parents and children from the local Creche and the National School for their valuable time and efforts. You seem to have got a good dry day from the photographs and it is good to be off to an early start on litter and rubbish.
Two Italian teenagers assisted with litter picking and gardening which is commendable and it is obvious you are strong in motivational leadership to get such a good response from volunteers.
Not everyone will dispose of rubbish in the designated area and messaging around this topic helps considerably.
Many homes and businesses assist your activities and we thank them for their hard work.

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

We note maintenance of grass areas in both residential estates and remember to leave sections uncut for biodiversity.
The playground draws people outside and we owe our appreciation to everyone involved with maintenance. Keeping residents involved in your projects is the best way forward and many homes and gardens take pride in their area and we thank everyone who supports TT's activities.

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

The village approaches are typical of rural Irish landscapes with lush green vegetation which creates a natural informal look.
Footpaths are definitely necessary to ensure pedestrian safety and to ensure an accessible environment for everyone. With a long narrow streetscape, it can make for a dangerous environment. We note your talks with the communities' concerns.
The area with the old machinery has been cleaned and knotweed treated.
We loved the street benches painted in white and mint green perfect for a rest if out walking or shopping.
Entrance signage are nice but we would like it to stand out more. Planting would significantly enhance its appearance and make the sign more noticeable. However, it is crucial to choose plants carefully to ensure they compliment the sign and do not obstruct its visibility or message.

Concluding Remarks:

We had a lovely trip to Chapeltown and hope everyone is pleased with the work completed. Looking forward to more projects next year and hopefully the younger generation will continue to play a big part in your activities. It is always best to be working off a plan so jot down 1-2 actions for each category and you can tick them off as they are completed. Once again many thanks for your time and dedication and we wish you all the best for the future.