

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Allenwood - Fiodh Alúine** Ref: **2205**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **289**
Category: **C** Date(s): **02/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	35	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	39
TOTAL MARK	550	275	289

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.

Allenwood is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition 2025. Thank you for your application and map. Allenwood's committee of eight members is supported by a very large number of volunteers, which shows good community spirit exists in the village. A rota is set up for various tasks with a sub group taking care of the playground, an important amenity for the area. You are also fortunate to have the support of a CE worker doing excellent work with the ongoing maintenance of the village. Kildare County Council and Bord na Mona have been very supportive to you with funding and advice. Local businesses, such as Glennons and Spar have also supported you with various projects. The Scout group and the National School assist you regularly. Communication to the wider community is through Facebook, parish newsletter and local newspaper. The village has benefitted from taking part in the Tidy Towns competition, resulting in a better community spirit, overall improvements and making the village a better place to visit and live in.

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

The village has acquired the old Credit Union building for the purpose of a Community Centre. The County Council purchased and refurbished the building and the Tidy Towns group are going to act as a caretaker group, for this important amenity. It also provides the Tidy Towns with a space for their equipment which is a great addition. The building looks pristine and will act as a meeting place for Tidy Towns volunteers, to meet for a cuppa after their many tasks. The external library facility is superb for the community to avail of books and make donations of books. The Church of the Immaculate Conception is a superb building, very well maintained. Scoil Mhuire school and grounds are also well maintained. The businesses of the village were busy, which is good to see, ensuring that people are supporting locally. The area of the playground which is a short distance from the village was a hive of activity. It is good to see the childcare, scouts and men's shed all availing of the community facilities and working closely together. There is good space and parking within the complex which is commended, providing necessary facilities for the community. The village like most towns and villages has grown in size and population over the last decade with new housing developments. These much needed facilities are needed to meet the growing demands of the village today.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The natural landscaping of the village in the trees and hedging noted along the approach roads is complemented by the various planters and ground planting, at various locations in the village. The entrance signs to the village are

important for welcoming visitors and also for defining the village boundary. The entrance signs could be highlighted more with landscaping. Ground planting of perennial plants where necessary is recommended. Some pots were noted placed on grass, this planting would be better ground planted if possible. It is easier to maintain with less watering needed. The use of annuals is also welcomed, bringing that extra splash of colour to their surroundings. Including bulbs and pollinator friendly plants such as the lavender noted, buzzing with bees, is encouraged. This type of planting provides colour and interest throughout the year.

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

The management and protection of local habitats and species is so important. You are working to a Local Action Framework produced last year with a big emphasis of creating awareness and protecting biodiversity in the region. Awareness of what is in the area, the peatlands, woodlands and waterways, such as the canal, is important for the community to learn about. Many community members may not be aware of local biodiversity and its importance. Showing an appreciation of the nature and biodiversity by hosting walks and talks is encouraged. Schools are good at hosting walks, educating the children about the many species that are existence in their area. The erection of bird/bat boxes and monitoring their movements is a super project for the school or members of the community to undertake.

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

The community are encouraged on a daily basis to make their area more sustainable by their actions. Harvesting of rainwater and using it for watering plants and other tasks is one way of saving. This type of action is being done at the Men's Shed project. This is something that the wider community could adapt by installing water butts. The installation of solar panels and the use of Led lighting in businesses and private homes is becoming more popular, helping to save electricity. Walking, cycling and using public transport where possible is also encouraged. Recycling is ongoing with many ways of saving, such as the external library that has been installed at the Community Centre. Planting more perennials and wildflowers, taking cuttings and saving seeds are all good ways of saving. The re-turn scheme proved very popular with less bottles to be collected after public events. Waste companies are encouraging the segregation of food waste by providing food bins for this purpose. The list goes on. Do ensure you document all projects in this category otherwise they may go unnoticed and not get the recognition they deserve.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village has a good plan in place on the control and hopefully eradication of litter. There are a number of volunteers helping out on a rota basis in keeping the village free of litter. As stated previous you are also fortunate to have a CE worker who helps with this task. Well done to Texaco for helping you to dispose of the collected litter in their bins. It is hoped that your monitoring of dumping in the Peatlands will help to stop this problem. This has become a problem in many peatlands around the country and it is disappointing to see. Some bollards need painting. The artwork on the utility boxes certainly add interest and colour to the surroundings.

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

The houses along the approach roads and throughout the village have well painted facades with neat gardens and colourful displays in window boxes and hanging baskets. The estates visited are also well presented with good entrance signs, well maintained green areas and splendid planting. It is good to see more planting of native trees, hedging and pollinator friendly plants used in landscaping. Have you considered hosting a best kept estate competition? This helps to encourage and reward residents for their efforts in maintaining their homes and surroundings. Well done to the residents for the work they do in presenting their homes to such a high standard. They also help with other projects in the village such as the playground, which was greatly admired.

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

The approach roads to the village have entrance signs which gives a very good first impression to those visiting. These signs could be enhanced more by the planting of colourful pollinator plants. The Derrymullen road was admired on its enhancement. Verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Trees and hedges were all noted along approach roads. New heritage sign on station road was also noted. There is a superb area of interest on this road which could be added to in the future. The enhancement at the XL shop greatly improves this site. Traffic flowed well and parking was good.

Concluding Remarks:

Allenwood are doing good work to develop and enhance the village and surroundings with various projects to address the needs of an increasing population. Your new Community Centre will act as a great social hub for the village. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.