

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Athy - Áth Í** Ref: **354**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **355**
Category: **F** Date(s): **03/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	24	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	39
TOTAL MARK	550	340	355

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.

Athy is welcomed to the 2025 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your application and supporting information. Athy has benefitted from its participation in the competition over the years with the many projects that have been completed, which have helped to develop and enhance the town, making the community proud of their town and surroundings. This would not happen without the help of a hard working committee and a large number of volunteers. Meetings are held regularly to organise and plan, which also includes a number of meetings with the schools. There is ongoing help on advice and funding from Kildare County Council and all other agencies. The wider community are kept informed of your work through social media, newsletters and phone. There is good interaction with the schools through the Green School initiative. Other youth groups are also supportive such as the youth café, skate park and junior boat club. Networking with other Tidy Towns groups is always beneficial and attending information evenings where there is always new information is important. It is also important to partake in local events such as St Patricks Day celebration, which helps to make the community aware of the work that the Tidy Towns do in the town. Some groups highlight their presence on the streets with Hi Viz jackets displaying their name, ensuring they are safer and more recognisable as a group.

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

Athy is a heritage town with a number of noted buildings located in its surroundings. Athy is also known for famous people, one of the most famous was well known explorer, Ernest Shackleton. The upgrade of Emily Square is underway, which will see new paving, seating and footpaths, creating a superb community space. Works also includes the Shackleton Museum which will provide a permanent exhibition devoted to him in the Museum, which should attract many more tourists to the town when completed. The Museum also houses more history and information of other ancient sites and well known people from the area. The Courthouse is also admired on its superb heritage structure. The Church and surroundings were visited and admired on their presentation. The Grotto was also noted but could do with freshening. The Train Station and surroundings were well presented, which is important for commuters to this busy location. Public spaces which are so important for the community to pursue recreational pursuits or simple relaxation, are easily accessible. The Town Park with its superb landscaping in natural surroundings is an important amenity for the wider community of all ages to use, for leisure or recreation. Walking and cycling along the banks of the canal or engaging in water sports on the River Barrow, one of Ireland's longest rivers, are just a number of recreational pursuits that the community have available in their midst.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The town's planting of mature trees and hedging noted along the approach roads and the park are complemented with some superb areas of planting. Window boxes', hanging baskets and larger planters brought great colour and interest to their surroundings. Ground planting where feasible is always recommended as it helps to reduce on work, which includes watering. Do ensure all containers placed at various locations such as the carpark across from Church, are planted. Planting in front of the Municipal Offices was greatly admired. Planting of trees along this road and landscaping at many residences brought great colour and interest to the surroundings.

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

The committee continues to improve the biodiversity in the area with the development of projects identified in their biodiversity plan. These projects include the ongoing planting of trees to add to the large existing tree stock, most notably along the approach roads and of course the park. Planting of native hedges and pollinator friendly plants are also part of the plan. The committee attended a conference on biodiversity to continue to learn more about nature and local habitats. Groups are encouraged to host talks and walks on local species. An example of this is learning more about swifts. The committee have erected swift boxes and it is important to monitor these boxes and record the findings. This shows an appreciation of the nature that is in your midst. There is an area adjacent to the Castle that could be developed more for biodiversity with wildflowers or similar pollinator friendly plants, adding more colour and interest to the surroundings.

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

In this category groups are all trying to improve sustainability in their area by their activities. Athy schools are doing good work in this area, as most schools now take part in the Green School initiative, which provides them with a lot of knowledge on how to save on resources. More bus routes and cycle lanes are being provided in most towns across the countryside, encouraging more people to use these services. It is good to see committee members showing good example by travelling on public transport. Energy saving is also foremost in people's minds, trying to reduce costs, which is resulting in solar panels being installed on more homes and businesses. The community are using energy saving bulbs and also learning to switch off. Waste companies are now providing food waste bins, which is helping to reduce general waste. Attending information sessions on food sharing is good, if it helps to show by examples, how to combat waste. By reducing the amount of food purchased and reducing food waste, can add up to major savings in this area. Recycling and reusing is ongoing in all communities. Charity shops help greatly by taking in items that are useful to others and as a result raise much needed funding for charities. Do continue to document all projects undertaken in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town are working to a plan on the control and possible eradication of litter. Weekly clean-ups are held. The annual An Taisce clean-up, includes cleaning of the river which is important for marine life. You are fortunate to have been allocated a CE worker who will help greatly with the general maintenance of the town. Getting the community and local businesses to take care around their own area is helpful to all. Litter picking should not be left to a few members of the community but shared by all members. Have you noticed a reduction in the amount of litter collected during big clean-up events? Hopefully the amount is reducing which will be a positive sign, indicating your plan on trying to reduce litter is working. Some graffiti and litter was noted at various locations. The colourful murals brought life and vibrancy to their surroundings. Good directional signage at the bridge could be straightened which would enhance the sign and bridge even further.

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

Well done on organising the competition for best kept estate and shop front each year, which encourages the community members to maintain around their areas and also rewards them for their efforts. Well done to Rheban Manor on winning consistently each year. This is a great achievement. The winning plaques were noted proudly displayed on the adjudicators walk of the town which is commended. Pride of Place competitions both at National and Council level are also entered each year, which entails a lot of effort and work from the residents, but is also very worthwhile for the wider community. The presentation of estates and private houses throughout the town was superb with maybe some boundary walls needing attention. Green areas and landscaping which includes planted containers added colour and interest to the streetscape. The years' work is rewarded with a Halloween Party as a reward for all the hard work. The residents are commended for the work they do in maintaining their own areas and also helping with ongoing projects to develop and enhance their town more.

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

The approach roads to the town are enhanced with neat verges and bright landscaping. Trees, hedging and stone walls are part of the town boundary. The avenue of trees along the Monasterevin road adds greatly to the ambience of the streetscape. The roundabout and entrance signs were also admired. The Town Park with its superb stone walls and mature trees was also admired. The bridge part of the town heritage adds its own interest and beauty to the streetscape. Ongoing planting of trees on approach roads is part of your plan and this is commended. There are many areas for parking and the town was easy to navigate with good signage. The planted containers along the railway bridge wall were also impressive.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Athy. The work at Emily Square could be completed by the time this report is published. This will greatly enhance this focal point of the town. Well done on your work in preserving the history

of the area which will greatly help to attract more tourists to the town. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.