

# Tidy Towns Competition 2025

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Caragh - Ceárach** Ref: **1985**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **314**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **27/06/2025**

|                                           | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2024 | Mark<br>Awarded 2025 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80              | 45                   | 46                   |
| Streetscape & Public Places               | 80              | 40                   | 42                   |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping              | 80              | 42                   | 45                   |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality  | 55              | 30                   | 33                   |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less     | 55              | 17                   | 19                   |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90              | 53                   | 55                   |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 55              | 37                   | 38                   |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 55              | 35                   | 36                   |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>550</b>      | <b>299</b>           | <b>314</b>           |

### 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. Caragh is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2025. Thank you for your application and map. Caragh has a small committee and a number of volunteers that possess a variety of skills, to help with various projects, such as biodiversity and painting. Regular meetings are held to discuss projects or simply to catch up. These meetings are important as they can be used as a social outing with a cuppa. The group are focused on their plan for the area with different projects each year, while also continuing to work on the day to day maintenance of the village. There is good networking with other groups in the village, supporting each other with different projects. There is ongoing support from Kildare County Council, all other agencies and businesses with advice and funding. Communication to the wider community is through social media, WhatsApp and parish newsletter. There is good interaction with the schools, in particular with the Green School initiative which is relevant to the Tidy Towns projects. Taking part in the Tidy Towns competition has helped the community to focus on different projects that have enhanced the village and surroundings, giving the community a greater and lasting sense of pride in their area.

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

Caragh is proud of its public spaces in particular Fr Kinsella Park, which is colourful and welcoming and which is enjoyed by all members of the community. The walk from the school to the Park leaves it very accessible for the school children for recreation. Your flagship project for 2024 was the unveiling of a centenary memorial to honour one of your members Larry Stanley, who was Ireland's first Track and Field Olympian. The committee are grateful and appreciative of the support they received locally, especially from Reimal, Caragh Nurseries, Cookes and everyone who contributed to making the occasion an enjoyable event for the whole community. Caragh National School is bright and colourful. The grounds are all well maintained. The Church and grounds were also admired. The walk in the grounds which included a no mow area is commended. The railings at the Church need freshening. The graveyard is also well cared for. The businesses of the village bring great colour in particular, The Fox and Hare/Cookes with its excellent floral displays. Applegreen, Centra and Happy Hands also add great vibrancy to the streetscape. The Medical Centre has well painted facades adding to the overall appearance of the surroundings. The Community Centre, an important amenity for the community was also well presented. The adjudicator felt the clothes bank would be better placed inside the grounds, even though the entrance is not always open. The boundary wall along the carpark area needs painting.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Caragh is fortunate to have such an important amenity in Fr Kinsella Park, which is home to so many native trees and hedging. The Parish Church is also a good example of natural planting left to mature and available to the community to enjoy, by providing an accessible walk. Planting of pollinator friendly plants were noted throughout the streetscape in the attractive planters that brought colour and vibrancy to the village. The planting of wildflowers was also admired together with the planting of bulbs, that ensures colour and brightness in the sometimes dreary days of spring. The care of trees after planting, by staking and monitoring ties, to the removal of stakes as the trees mature, is important. You are fortunate to have a local nursery to advise you on the best plants suited to your location. The bicycles in memory of local people add colour and interest to their surroundings.

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

The Park as well as being an excellent place for recreation it is also a place of education, especially on nature. The colourful mural on wildlife and wildflowers together with the excellent information boards with names and descriptions, is commended. The children's biodiversity trail which continues to be upgraded is an excellent resource for the school to learn about biodiversity. Good thinking and planning from Orlagh. The Park is so accessible to the children from the school and community for play and also to the community for recreational purposes. Groups are encouraged to host walks and talks to create awareness and appreciation of local species and habitats, as sometimes people are unaware of the nature that is in their midst. The bat walk which you organised is one such event. You are working to a biodiversity plan which keeps you focussed on projects and you also attended a one- day biodiversity conference in October, all superb for the management and protection of local species and habitats.

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

Looking at ways to make the area more sustainable is encouraged by all groups especially in the areas of water, energy and transport. Harvesting of rainwater, walking, cycling and using public transport are all ways of saving. Energy saving is also being addressed with solar panels being installed, using LED lighting and learning to switch off. Reducing, reusing and recycling are also being used by many groups. The container in the Park reused as a store and enhanced by a mural is a perfect example. The hubcaps were also reused as decorations to the Park entrance by the children. Mulching and the use of bark chippings on flower beds is also commended. The bicycles make lovely mementos to departed members of the community. You are doing good work in this category. Do ensure all projects are documented, otherwise they may go unnoticed and not get the recognition they deserve.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

The committee have been busy painting, weeding and organising litter picks to make the village more inviting, which is working. The spring clean-ups do create awareness among the wider community and helps to get people involved. Have you noticed a reduction in the amount of litter being collected at those clean-up days? If litter is reducing it shows that your plan of action on litter control is working. The green kilometre is another way of getting different groups to take care of their stretch of road. Well done on removing weeds manually and avoiding the use of herbicide. Burned grass looks a lot worse and more harmful to the environment than weeds growing. Vinegar and salt is being used by some groups to help kill weeds along kerbs.

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

The residential areas of Caragh are well presented with good green areas and landscaping. Caragh certainly are good at bringing life to the streetscape with bright murals, which is good for those visiting and those living in the community. The reused bicycles also add charm and character to the village. Thanks for submitting a photo of your colourful bicycle changes throughout the year, a novel way to introduce each festivity. Holding a best kept estate or garden is another way of encouraging and rewarding the residents on their work. The residents are commended for the work they do in maintaining their homes and surroundings to such a high standard.

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

The approach roads to the village have neat verges while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Bridges are an important part of the village boundary, particularly stone bridges that form part of your heritage. The natural planting is also in keeping with the village surroundings. Trees and hedging also form part of the boundary fences along the approach roads. Entrance signs on all roads leading to the village are important. Planting at signs also helps to enhance the entrance to the village and helps to make the entrance sign stand out. Do ensure that all encroaching foliage is cut back from all signs and all signs are cleaned.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Caragh was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You are doing good work developing and enhancing the village with the many projects you have completed while retaining the natural surroundings. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.