

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildare - Cill Dara** Ref: **100**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **361**
Category: **F** Date(s): **04/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	48	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	36	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	26	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	38
TOTAL MARK	550	341	361

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. Kildare is welcomed to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition for 2025. Thank you for your application, map and copy of your plan. The application this year is very much dedicated to the memory of your volunteer Sile. It shows that the great work volunteers are undertaking in towns and villages is not forgotten. Kildare has a strong committee of twelve who bring a mix of skills to the table, along with a good gender balance. Youth is also represented on your group. Sub groups are also part of the committee working on the different categories of the competition. You are also assisted by a large number of volunteers working with a number of area champions, which is a superb idea. There is also great interaction from the schools where a junior Tidy Towns group is in place. Meetings are held regularly with ongoing work activities from the Tidy Towns, especially during the summer months. Support from advice to funding is ongoing from Kildare County Council, all other agencies and businesses. Communication to the wider community is through social media and local radio. Following on from the notable and wonderful 1500th anniversary celebration last year of Saint Brigid, it has inspired the community to continue celebrating her feast day with a new initiative, namely Community Busking Festival. Kildare Heritage Centre, the Tidy Towns and the wider community celebrated St Brigid's legacy through music and song on the 3rd of February, featuring local performers, which proved to be a great community day.

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

Kildare like many towns are on course to have major developments to the streetscape, especially the town centre under the Public Realm scheme. Kildare has embarked on a number of projects that have already improved a number of streets, with a number of projects completed. The market square is the focal point of the town and on adjudication day, businesses were looking pristine under the watchful eye of Lord Edward. Adding to the overall colour and interest was the superb Mural of Saint Brigid. The CYMS hall also looked clean and fresh with well painted facades. New planters and seating were also admired. The public seating looked good and included back and arm support which is essential for many people. The old Courthouse which is used by the Tidy Towns as a hub also includes a racing museum and had a number of pictures brightening up the dreary grey walls of the building. The shop front improvement scheme is also available for shop owners wishing to enhance their shop fronts. An example is the Crafts Shop Gather, which availed of the scheme and looks superb, this is a shop where community creativity and craft come together. St Brigid's Church and grounds were admired with extra visitors now coming to visit the relic of St Brigid. St Brigid's Cathedral and round tower are important heritage sites in the town and well worth a visit to observe their good preservation. The schools of the town are all well presented with new road marking and colourful bollards brightening up their surroundings. The National Stud/Japanese Gardens are certainly worth a visit with many visitors noted on adjudication day. St Brigid's well is well maintained and provides

a quiet tranquil area for reflection.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Kildare is a town which has certainly come to life with great areas of both ground and container planting, brightening up the streetscape. The approach roads from the roundabouts to the entrance signs are all well landscaped. A variation in plants, from colourful begonias to planters with a variety of pollinator friendly plants were noted. The new containers extending along the streetscape are greatly admired. The rustic appearance of some of the containers was also admired. The begonias planted at entrance signs are low growing and will not interfere with wording on the bi-lingual signs, which is commended. Taller growing plants can block out important signs. Kildare also ensures the town has colour and interest all year round, with suitable planting of bulbs and other herbaceous plants at numerous sites. The new planned medieval garden on Chapel Hill will be looked forward to and welcomed when completed.

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

The town and surroundings are rich in habitats and local species and their management and protection is important to ensure their continued survival. The town celebrates biodiversity week with talks and walks on different species and this is important to show appreciation of their existence. Provision for online information for residents on biodiversity is also provided to help improve biodiversity in private gardens and estates. Biodiversity is allowed to flourish in sites such as the graveyard at Grey Abbey. Swift boxes have been monitored and movements have been recorded. An opportune time to celebrate St Brigid and biodiversity was the planting of pollinator bulbs and the making of St Brigid's crosses, while learning about the ecology of the rushes used in making the crosses. Native trees and hedging stock are being improved on with ongoing planting at various locations. A noticeable increase in pollinator friendly planting has also been noticed throughout the town.

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

This category is about making the area more sustainable by various activities. Well done to the junior Tidy Towns group and young men's shed, setting a good example, working on various projects on upcycling and biodiversity. Many discarded items especially wood can be used for planters and bird boxes, which can be used in the community. Your project from recycled cardboard to create superb pieces under the guidance of Artist Greg Hallahan, is greatly admired and appreciated. There is use and purpose for every item, only to get the right person to show us how it should be done. Charity shops take in many items that are sold, creating funds for charity and reducing the amount of waste that is going to landfill. The re-turn scheme which has proved very successful, reduces the number of bottles and cans discarded and instead are used by some groups to raise funds. Water butts used for collecting water can be used for watering plants and doing other tasks, is another way of saving. Walking, cycling and using public transport are all ways of saving and are also good for health and wellbeing. Taking plant cuttings and collecting seeds are good ways of propagating more plants. Shopping local, supports local businesses as well as saving on emissions and packaging. Energy is another area where large savings are being seen with more solar panels becoming more noticeable on homes and businesses. More electric cars are also appearing on roads with more charging points being installed. Well done on your projects you are completing to make the town and surroundings more sustainable. Do continue to document all projects in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town has a good plan in place around the control of litter and general tidiness that includes the wider community, which is superb. It is also good to see the schools and scouts get involved. The An Taisce Spring clean-up creates awareness among the community and helps to get more people involved. Some groups make this into a social occasion which helps new residents to get to know the community members. The management and control of litter should not be left to a few members, but the whole community helping to take care of their own area. Your area champions really get to work in this category. The addition of the green machine for sweeping will also help with the workload. Your work shows in the town with good general tidiness on day of adjudication. Bollards looked clean with the new colourful bollards bringing brightness and colour to the streetscape. Bins and signage also looked good.

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

The houses along the approach roads and throughout the town are generally well maintained with brightly painted facades, bringing brightness and colour to the streetscape. Like most towns there is always work to be done to help to enhance all of the housing stock. There is a scheme in place in conjunction with Cill Dara housing association, helping to deal with identifying and supporting owners of unoccupied houses in need of repair, which will hopefully benefit them. The residential estates visited are all well presented with good entrances and well maintained green areas. Residents are encouraged to attend an online seminar on biodiversity, helping them with landscaping in their estates. This is very important, as the best kept estate/garden competition this year has a theme "Gardening for biodiversity". The residents are commended on the work they do in maintaining their homes to such a high standard and also helping out with projects throughout the town.

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

The entrance roads to the town have superb well landscaped entrance signs and roundabouts, giving a very good first impression to those visiting. The mix of planting, from colourful begonias to multi-coloured pollinator friendly plants in ground landscaping, was noted on approach roads. The planters continued this theme throughout the

streetscape. Native trees and hedging were also admired particularly at the National Stud approach. Verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Great improvements in footpaths and road markings including pedestrian crossings were noted. Road surfaces were generally good, traffic flowed well and parking was also good. The artwork to utility boxes brought great colour and highlighted their presence along the streetscape.

Concluding Remarks:

The town was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. The town has improved in all areas since the adjudicators last visit. Great work is being done along the streetscape and approach roads, while continuing to improve facilities and needs of a growing population. More planned work under the Public Realm Improvement works is planned and will be welcomed. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.