

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Maynooth - Maigh Nuad** Ref: **377**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **394**
Category: **G** Date(s): **17/06/2025**
23/07/2025

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	60	62
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	56	58
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	44	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	29	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	42
TOTAL MARK	550	381	394

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. Maynooth are welcome to the 2025 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your application and supporting documentation. Thank you for reducing your data on the entry form and including more photos of your completed work. As always over the years you have a committed number of volunteers that work diligently with your strong committee, to maintain your beautiful heritage town and keep on developing new projects to enhance the town and surroundings. Volunteers are made up of various age groups and occupations and indeed from different countries, which is applauded. Meetings are held regularly to discuss and plan projects. These meetings are also social outings for many, especially new residents in the area to get to know their neighbours. This year extra meetings are being held to organise and plan for the Entente Florale competition, which you are wished well in. Maynooth Tidy Towns receives ongoing support from Kildare County Council, all other agencies, businesses, community groups and educational centres with funding and advice for their ongoing projects. Communication to the wider community is through social media, newspapers/newsletters and notice boards. It is also applauded to see so many young people from all the educational centres helping out with various projects, ensuring that Tidy Towns in Maynooth is driven by the wider community. The Tidy Town's competition has adopted to help with climate change by encouraging the reduction of waste and improving biodiversity making more communities more sustainable by their actions.

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

Maynooth is a heritage town with many historical buildings noted along its streetscapes. It is important to capture and retain information on these sites for future generations to come. This you have accomplished with your superb bi-lingual heritage trail of the town and surroundings. The main street has a mix of heritage and brightly coloured buildings, all bringing their own charm to the streetscape. It is also good to note that more businesses are opening up to ensure more buildings been occupied. The Roost looks particularly attractive with its colourful floral displays. As mentioned in your application there is movement on the vacant sites which is positive. The shop front award project is a good way of encouraging and rewarding businesses for their efforts. The tree line along this street brings ambience to the surroundings. As mentioned in last year's report the grass growing at the base of the trees does take from their overall appearance. The back lanes of the town visited are commended on the presentation of the buildings. The Pound is also an important heritage site providing a place of peace and tranquillity for those wishing to take a break. The square is also an important amenity and looks bright and colourful from the many planters situated throughout. The new beds were also admired. The cobble stone is however being overtaken with green growth. Some groups use a vinegar base for weed control as one method to keep them under control. The canal provides an excellent public space for the people of the area to enjoy their recreation in pleasant surroundings, both

for walkers and cyclists.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The natural surroundings of the town have been complemented by the many areas of planting noted along the approach roads, along the streetscape and in public spaces. The type of plants used ensures that the town and surroundings look bright and welcoming all year round. The seating and planters at Carton House were admired. The sun flowers will bring colour and brightness to the natural stone background. The square is also well decorated with colourful planters and ground planting which is very much in keeping with the surroundings. The hanging baskets and window boxes noted on many residences and businesses were also admired. Supervalu has to get a mention on its excellent presentation. The housing estates have also good planting at entrances and throughout. Information boards were also noted with information on various plants and trees. It is good to see one such board erected in a prominent location at the GAA grounds where there is plenty of footfall to observe it. The roundabout at Dublin Road does need attention, maybe the County Council could help you with this as it is in a very busy section of roadway. Health and safety has to be your priority when dealing with busy locations.

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

As mentioned in your application Maynooth has seen a vast amount of development to cater for students and commuters. Development does eat into green spaces that are an essential part of the towns biodiversity. Developers have to be encouraged as part of planning to incorporate green space and amenities in their developments. The retention of mature trees where possible and the planting of native trees and hedging is recommended. Mariavilla which was visited has included natural landscaping in this development, which is important for the large number of residents living there. You have a good biodiversity plan in place with new projects added each year. There are however good public amenities such as Carton House and along the canal where the community can enjoy the natural surroundings. Planting of more trees, shrubs and plants which includes bulbs that complement the existing planting of these areas is recommended.

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

In this category Maynooth are forging ahead with improved results by their activities to make the town and surroundings more sustainable. They have attended meetings in the last few years on climate change that will hopefully help to reduce on their carbon footprint. Waste and recycling is improving. The re-turn scheme has seen a reduction in plastic and bottles. Green waste is also being reused as compost and mulch. More rainwater is being used by the wider community for watering plants and other tasks. The reduction in hanging baskets with more ground planting has reduced on watering and also is more sustainable for plants. Maynooth has a good public transport system, both train and bus. Cycling and walking seems very popular in this busy town as noted on day of adjudication. This is needed with so many students attending college and schools in the area. The schools are commended on their achievements in the Green School Initiative learning from an early age the importance of reducing waste and its impact on the environment. KCC Demo House where the public can visit and learn about retrofitting their homes is an important project. This will give the community some knowledge on the benefits of retrofitting and the cost involved. The grant involved could be increased to help particularly elderly people make their homes more efficient.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There is no doubt that keeping the town litter free is a demanding task on volunteers. The control of litter and possible eradication should be addressed by the wider community and not left to the same number. There is a good plan in place in Maynooth with litter picking teams covering the main roads when it is safe to do so. The residents from the estates also get involved in looking after their areas and this is commended. Litter is segregated after each collection. The re-turn scheme has reduced the amount of cans/bottles which is positive. There are a number of volunteers that take care of Main Street at a time when traffic is minimal. There is ongoing co-operation from KCC and MU on managing events at the college that results in a lot of litter being left around. It is positive to note that the amount of litter collected at clean-ups has reduced and that is positive for such a busy town.

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

Maynooth like most towns is growing at a very fast rate with an increase in population which puts a strain on all other resources. It is a pleasure to leave Main Street and walk down the back lanes and admire the old housing stock that is still special and well presented. Pound Lane is one such area. The new housing build of today are more energy efficient. Mariavilla adjacent to Lyreen river has plenty of green space some wild and more areas mowed and planted with pollinator friendly plants. It is a good example of a well planned development. The older housing estates will need help from the government with better grants to bring them up to standard. It will take time for this to happen. The estates visited have good entrance signs, well-kept green areas and good landscaping. Most homes have well painted facades and look bright and welcoming from colourful floral displays. Play areas visited were all well-presented and are such an important amenity for the community. The residents are commended on the work they do in the presentation of their homes and also helping with the many projects such as litter picking and many more to help make Maynooth the progressing town it is.

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

The approach road from Straffan was busy with traffic. The grass verges on this road are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Landscaping is impressive at Maxol and Supervalu. The Dublin Road has a superb entrance

stone. O'Neill Park landscaping was admired. The roundabout in this area needs attention. It is hoped that KCC will help with this. The Kilcock entrance road has neat verges with uncut corridors for wildlife. Trees and shrubs were admired on this road. There are some plants such as hogweed growing along the grass verges that needs to be controlled or it will take over. Rathcoffey entrance road also impressed. Mullen Bridge and Bond two very important features of the town could be highlighted more. Maynooth is certainly worth a visit during the Spring with the amount of bulb planting along approach roads that has taken place as per photos attached

Concluding Remarks:

Maynooth was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. There are plans for a new ring road that will help to ease traffic in this busy town. Tidy Towns are doing good work helping to retain the heritage of the town and expand to cater for an increased population. Keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

Thank you so much for all the work that went into your entry this year. Your entry was very clear and detailed and amply illustrated with many photographs of your activities throughout the last year. It is so useful for us to have before and after photographs to allow us to appreciate the scope and scale of your efforts. Thank you for the map and accompanying legend that allowed us to navigate Maynooth and get to see what you have achieved. We would advise that your strategic plan should be more detailed. We didn't get the feel that it identified larger-scale projects that would be of great significance for Maynooth.

The approaches to Maynooth are generally pleasant and well-kept. Two roundabouts in particular stood out for us. Beware of having too many name signs on any given approach road. It is good to see towns that announce their autism-friendly status.

Our visit to Maynooth was blessed with good weather and it was lovely to be able to walk around the town and appreciate the fruits of your labours. Even with the academic year over, the streets were busy throughout the day. Significant work was underway on new footpath and cycle facilities which were good to see. We got a chance to visit Maynooth Castle and it was extremely enjoyable and informative. The interpretation here is very well done. The grounds would be a lovely place to sit for a lunchtime break. Another splendid piece of built heritage is St. Mary's Church of Ireland. Unfortunately this was closed on adjudication day but we were able to appreciate the new beds with lots of pollinator-friendly species. Well done. The parish centre and the lovely garden here were visited. Our compliments to those who keep it so well.

We were somewhat disappointed with the bottle bank area where some litter and graffiti detracted from the appearance. The Pound, on the other hand, was such a lovely experience and we noted the new biodiversity signage here. Lots of lovely (and pollinator-friendly) planting with Rudbeckia, Verbena and Potentilla really enhances this area. We really liked how you have decorated your 'big-belly bins' – very clever. This was also the first place that we had seen the vape-sticker panels on a litterbin. Another good idea. Your gorgeous new flowerbeds at the Square were much admired.

There are some really nice commercial premises in Maynooth. Outdoor seating areas at premises such as Bistro 53 and Picardo's certainly add to the streetscape. Maynooth Bookshop has a lovely shopfront. If AIB were to invest in some floral decorations this would definitely add interest to this premises. As you described in your entry, some takeaway premises are not positive additions to your main street in terms of signage quality. Well done to the owners of the public houses for keeping them looking so good. We noted your use of an old shopfront as your trophy cabinet. Super. Watch out for unsightly advertising which can ruin a gable or detract from a laneway. Your blue street name signs are gorgeous but some of the commercial signage leaves room for improvement.

Maynooth has several lovely walks and we enjoyed our stroll down Carton Avenue, taking in as we passed the lovely landscape planting at the gates. A little wilder was a walk along the canal and we were impressed to see almost no litter.

Overall, this was a really pleasant visit and this adjudicator is very happy to affirm the conclusions and scoring of the first round adjudicator. Keep up the good work and thank you.