

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Naas - Nás Na Riogh** Ref: **382**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **398**
Category: **H** Date(s): **16/06/2025**
21/07/2025

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	58	59
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	54	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	50	52
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	27	29
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	42	43
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	44
TOTAL MARK	550	384	398

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. Naas is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition for 2025. Thank you for your application which has been reduced in word size but includes more photos and helpful maps. Naas has a strong working committee of twelve members with many other bodies available to help out. Most of the members participate in other community groups in the town. This is positive as it helps all groups to work together. There are a large number of volunteers all working to develop and enhance the town and surroundings, making it a better place for people to live, visit and work in. Meetings are held regularly for discussion on plans and work. Kildare County Council is one of your primary supporters, with funding and advice. Many businesses of the town also give support for the many projects that you do. Other groups of major importance are the biodiversity group, Naas Men's/Women's shed and the Scouts. Communication to the wider community is through social media and local newspapers. Naas is busy with three competitions this year which will require a lot of community support. The first one on the list is IBAL cleanest town, which you succeeded in winning this year again, a great achievement, well done to all concerned. Best of luck in the remaining two competitions. There is ongoing support from the schools in particular the Transition Year students who use volunteering as part of their Gaisce award. The schools are commended on their achievements in the Green School Initiative, having obtained a total of thirty-four green flags. This is a great achievement for both students and their teachers. Naas Tidy Towns group continue to be a voice for the community in developing many new projects for enhancing the town.

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

Naas continues to improve the overall appearance of the streetscape which is home to many heritage buildings and more modern builds. The main problem in most towns and villages are unoccupied sites which can take from the ambience of the streetscape. Naas are doing good work in this area with the renovation of sites, which has reduced the number now unoccupied. Market House is one of these locations which will be used for community use when plans are completed on its purchase. This area is an important community space for the community to walk and relax in, which is suitable for all ages. The town has many splendid heritage buildings such as the Court House, Library and Churches just to name a few. They are always well presented which includes well positioned landscaping. New pavements, seating, and landscaping has improved greatly the overall appearance at the Kilcullen junction. Other areas that caught the eye are The Potato Market and The Mall. The County Council have major plans for the town which has included input from the Tidy Towns group. It is hoped this plan will be finalised in 2027. The sculpture trail is an iconic trail with many interesting sculptures at various locations, all well presented.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The natural planting of trees, hedging and pollinator friendly planting is complemented by the summer bedding that is visible throughout the town. The roundabouts are all well presented with a new addition added to the Millenium Roundabout of a metal horse sculpture. This sculpture was kindly donated by the Elms Gourmet Pantry. The tiered planters are bright and colourful and bring great ambience to the streetscape. The businesses along the streetscape are commended on the colourful displays of window boxes and other planted containers, brightening up the buildings. The harbour is a special area of tranquillity so near and yet so far from the busy streets. The planting in this area of pollinator friendly plants is in keeping with its surroundings. The canal is a superb area for walking and cycling and has an abundance of well-presented green areas and seating to help the weary walker. Craddockstown and Pipers Hill were particularly admired. Trees should be staked and checked as trees grow, ensuring any dead trees are removed. It is also important to water container planting on a regular basis as some Buxus were looking sad at the Kilcullen junction.

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

Naas has in place a biodiversity group that promotes biodiversity in all areas of the town. They also manage and protect habitats and nature in all projects that are undertaken, such as planting, erecting bird boxes and their more recent addition of duck hotels. They also create an awareness and appreciation of local species and habitats by hosting walks and talks for groups to learn about nature. Unless these walks and talks are held the community may not be aware of the wildlife that is in their midst. It is also good to note that the bird boxes are monitored, and their movements are recorded. The swans have plenty of visitors with many other birds fluttering about looking for food. Time would pass very quickly in such a relaxed environment. The men's shed are doing splendid work making the different nest boxes to suit different species. Biodiversity week is celebrated with an annual bat walk. The drop-in nature workshop which is free to attend is another special way to celebrate biodiversity week in the community.

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

This category is about how groups are making their areas more sustainable by their activities. Energy is becoming one of the biggest areas where businesses are using more solar power. This is happening in Naas with many companies adopting to Solar power. More homes are installing solar panels to help reduce electricity costs and hopefully the use of fossil fuels. Kildare are also setting a good example with Refillz the first zero waste refill store located in Naas. The Tidy Towns are playing their part by swapping/sharing plants which should be encouraged. Taking cuttings and saving seeds from many flowers, works for many groups in their planting schemes. The use of rainwater for watering containers such as the one noted at chapel lane is an excellent project. Greenways across the country have become more and more popular with walkers and cyclists. This helps reduce emissions and can be quicker way of getting from A to B, rather than sitting in traffic. Has there been a reduction in the amount of waste collected in Naas by recycling companies? This can be encouraging if it continues to drop. Recycling centres for plastic and cans has been a huge success due to the monetary return of their deposit.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Naas has certainly a good plan in place around the control of litter. It has recently been announced Naas as winners of the IBAL Cleanest Town Award 2025, which is a fabulous achievement. Congratulations and well done to all involved, volunteering many hours on a continuous basis to retain such a high standard. As shown in your application there is great participation from the schools in keeping the town and surroundings free of litter. The Transition Year students also work very hard and thankfully they have all been rewarded for their efforts.

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

The town has many different types of housing along the approach roads and throughout the streetscape with many new housing estates been built in Naas in recent years. The town is continuing to grow and meet the demands of a growing population. The estates visited were well presented with splendid green areas, which included areas for wildlife. It is good to see a number of trees, shrubs and pollinator plants included in landscaping. Mill Lane also ensured the residents can enjoy their superb surroundings with the installation of a seat to rest and relax. Seating was also noted at many locations which is commended. There is very good interaction with the Tidy Towns group and the residents helping each other with projects. The houses at the Harbour were particularly admired. The residents are commended on the presentation of their homes to such a high standard and for helping out with other projects in the town and surroundings.

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

The entrance roads to Naas gives a very good first impression to those visiting the town. No matter which entrance road you use there is plenty to catch your attention. The roundabouts are all well presented with as stated previously a new sculpture, been added at Millenium Park. The various sculptures at different locations add interest to their surroundings. The welcome to Naas signs is particularly admired. The arches on Blessington Road certainly deserves praise and should be retained. All roads have neat verges while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Trees, hedging and well landscaped beds were noted and admired. The hospital road had well maintained green areas. Footpaths are generally good. Some bollards need freshening. Naas is a busy town, but traffic flowed freely and parking was available on the day.

Concluding Remarks:

Naas was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. The town is doing good work to develop projects to meet the demands of a growing population. You have many interesting projects included in your five- year plan, which will enhance the

town further on their fruition. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a delight for this adjudicator to visit your charming town on the busy weekend I visited. Your entry form was neat, concise and easy to use on the day of the visit with photographs showing us how you approach your work over the course of the year of the competition. You have an analytical approach to your progress with charts tracking it through easily understood metrics in a number of categories. A wonderful way to keep motivated, being able to see tangible results of all your works. Thank you for the effort put into this submission. A suggestion, colour code the projects on the town map to each category of the competition to aid our adjudication task even more. As noted by the first-round adjudicator your core committee is lucky to have such a dedicated group of volunteers to draw on. We admired the many shops that are in good repair and well kept. Shopfronts vary from traditional to modern. As can be expected in a town of your size, some premises are closed, a few buildings are empty and the surroundings becoming neglected. Well done on your efforts to improve unoccupied buildings with your nicely designed window display of local relevance by the TSB junction. The impact of a coat of paint was demonstrated though your visualization of the Dara Centre. The works at the junction at the Kilcullen Road reclaimed space for pedestrians. The input you have into the public realm and harbour development in Naas is a very proactive way to ensure your groups sustainable and biodiverse agenda is practically applied through your town's spaces and streets. Well done on this approach to influencing works outside of your groups immediate control. Ensure that undergrounding wires are included as they can be unsightly. Indeed the clutter of old signs/old alarm boxes/ brackets/ old wiring needs to be addressed to upper floors in a number of the town's older buildings as this a key part of the Tidiness and Litter Control Mark. This contrasts with the town at ground level where very little litter was noted on the day of the adjudication and your recent awards demonstrate your success. It's clear that as you say this is the one area that consumes the greatest number of hours from your volunteers. The area around the busy bus stop at the hospital had an accumulation of recently discarded litter so a bin may be required here? The new horse sculpture at the roundabout at the Sallins Road was visited and admired. The residents at Castle Farm are commended for their participation in the Spring Clean-up for the first time this year. The landscaping at the entrance to the Maples was looking lovely. This second-round adjudicator endorses the comments made by the first-round adjudicator in individual categories and especially congratulates all the effort put into the town's amenity areas including your waterways and especially your town lakes. Well done to all involved in this year's submission on the completion and more importantly the ongoing good maintenance of some wonderful amenities for both locals and visitors to enjoy. We wish you every success going forward to 2026 and beyond.