

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sallins - Na Solláin** Ref: **384**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **355**
Category: **E** Date(s): **02/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	40	43
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	46	47
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	42
TOTAL MARK	550	341	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. Sallins is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition for 2025. Thank you for your application and maps. Sallins has a small committee of three members and a number of volunteers all willing to help out when possible with litter picking and other projects as required. Communication is usually through WhatsApp to arrange meetings or to issue updates. Presently there is no CE workers but hopefully this will change and help will come. There is ongoing support with all your projects from GAA, Girl Guides, Canal Stores, Sunshine Club and Sallins Parish. Communication to the wider community is via notice boards and Facebook. Your project of the community libraries has proved very positive with another one in the making. These boxes were made from recycled materials and the books were donated, which is a superb example of sustainability. Taking part in the competition has helped the community acquire a good sense of pride in their town, with the projects that have been completed to enhance the town and surroundings.

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

As stated in your application Sallins is mostly a commuter town with a busy bus and train service to help alleviate the road traffic. The town has grown in size and population and is continuing to do so with more development in the pipe line. It is good to see such a good community spirit working to maintain the old businesses of the town and welcome new ones. The canal provides an excellent amenity area in the town for recreation. The railings are bright, made even more colourful by the bomb yarn display. The Grand Canal Stores is an important feature of the canal from bygone days and it is good to see it being used today for a new business of bike hire, which has become a popular pastime along the canal. The Bridge is also an important part of the town's structure and it is good to see that it is enhanced by floral displays. Lock 13 certainly adds vibrancy to the surroundings by its bright colourful presentation, which certainly would entice the public in to sample its cuisine. The railway station which still retains the original building, is well maintained. The mural of wildlife in this area was greatly admired. The town is also serviced by other businesses which maintain their surrounding areas in superb condition. The Church of the Rosary and the Guardian Angel is unique, sometimes called locally as the "Tin Church", was greatly admired. This is a well presented community area which includes ample parking. The overhead barrier at this site needs painting which would help to enhance this important community area even more.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Landscaping in Sallins is of a high standard. There is a good variety of colourful ground and container planting, bringing brightness and interest to their surroundings. There is a mix of perennial pollinator friendly plants at the

green areas, the bus stops, along the canal and the bridge to name but a few. The businesses and private homes are bright and colourful with window boxes and hanging baskets. The yarn decoration creating different objects, one as a boat, adds another layer of colour to the town's streetscape. The planting of pollinator friendly plants, bulbs, native trees and shrubs helps to bring all year round colour and interest to the town and surroundings. This type of planting is recommended.

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

Sallins is rich in biodiversity and to ensure that this richness continues you have set up a biodiversity group that looks after this important aspect of the town. There are many natural areas where wildlife can be explored. Groups are encouraged to host walks and talks and show an appreciation of local species and habitats and this you are certainly completing. The events held are aimed at family groups and include art as a way of exploring nature. You also work with Bird Watch Ireland on guided walks and talks. Bat walks are held to discuss and learn more about their habits. The biodiversity murals noted in the town are all ways of creating awareness and appreciation of the many different types of wildlife, that are in existence in Sallins. Water quality in the river Morell is monitored with water sampling being carried out regularly.

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

This category is all about the activities that are carried out to help make the area more sustainable. Examples of such actions were noted in the share boxes using recycled wood and the sharing of books. Planting perennials, sharing cuttings and seeds are more examples of saving. Making your own fertiliser from nettles, banana skins and comfrey is unique and the adjudicator wonders if you have you noted good results. Herbicides for weed control is no longer welcomed by Tidy Towns groups and is being replaced by vinegar and salt in some areas. Again how effective it is, remains to be seen. Scuffling of weeds is carried out by a lot of groups particularly along kerbs, which can be laborious and time consuming. Electricity saving are made by businesses and homes with the installation of solar panels and the use of Led bulbs. Harvesting of rainwater is also popular with more and more installing water butts for watering plants and completing other tasks. Walking and cycling facilities are good in Sallins, making it more enjoyable to use this type of transport. The train station seemed exceptionally busy which means a lot of people seem to use public transport in the town. You are doing good work in this category and do continue to document all projects otherwise they may go unnoticed.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There is a good plan in place around the area of litter control and hopefully the eradication of litter. Taking part in the An Taisce spring clean helps to motivate the community and get more people involved in this task. The community are helping with regular picks, with others helping in their own time. It is also positive to see the Ladybird and Brownie troop helping out to keep the town clean during litter picks. Hopefully the issue with the litter bins will be resolved and the bins used only for the purpose they are provided for. You are doing a good job with weed removal along kerbsides without the use of herbicides. You are also encouraging dog owners to clean up after their pets with relevant signs displayed. There was some graffiti noted at the Clane entrance road. Do ensure that all encroaching foliage is cut back from all signage to make it more visible, especially for motorists navigating their way around the town.

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

The residential estates visited were admired on their presentation. St Brigid's terrace entrance was particularly admired. Also the old housing stock of the town are well presented and bring great charm to the streetscape. You are working with the council on addressing unoccupied dwellings. The residents are planting pollinator friendly plants to help the biodiversity of the town and this is commended. Do you run a best kept estate or business competition? There is a lot of work organising such events but they do help to motivate and reward the community for their work. The residents are commended for the work they do in presenting their homes to such a high standard as well as helping out with the various projects in the town.

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

The approach roads to Sallins gives a very good first impression to those visiting. There is colour and brightness on all roads leading to the town and within. Grass verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Trees and hedging along with ground planting and container planting of pollinator friendly plants were admired. The yarn decorations creating visual objects such as the boat are impressive and bring great vibrancy to the streetscape. Railings are brightly coloured and the murals certainly help to brighten up the grey stonework. The bridge is an important part of the town structure and the landscaping here also enhanced this important heritage site. Traffic flow has greatly improved and parking was good. Footpaths and cycle tracks were also noted.

Concluding Remarks:

Sallins was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You are doing excellent work in enhancing the town with different projects. There is a uniqueness to the town which you are highlighting with your own style of project. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.