

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Bullsmouth - Bhéalbhuiláin	Ref:	2277
County:	Mayo	Mark:	248
Category:	A	Date(s):	09/06/2025

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	34	36
Streetscape & Public Places	80	30	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	32	34
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	19	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	43	45
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	550	236	248

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as d'iontráil a sheoladh chugainn. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta i bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhúr thionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór.

Welcome to the 2025 SuperValu TidyTowns competition and thank you for your application form, photos, and an aerial map with legend which assisted us greatly as we meandered around the area. This was our first visit to your community and we were delighted to see that you are progressing year on year since you first entered the competition four years ago. While you are a small committee you have quite a number of volunteers, ten, which is excellent for a community of thirty. Approach those who come on holidays on a regular basis to join you, as often they contribute to the area they love to visit, and just need to be asked. We tried to access your Facebook page but failed. Has it been deleted? Facebook and Instagram are an excellent way to post information about your area so we'd encourage you to continue with this. Don't forget to contact Mayo Co Co Heritage Officer and Environmental Officer who may assist you in your work /give you ideas for activities and projects. It's a good idea to make out a plan for activities/projects for your area. Invite the community to put forward ideas and you might be surprised at the knowledge/ expertise that becomes available. Don't make the plan too onerous – one or two projects in each category will get you focused and is sufficient for a community of your size.

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

While you don't have a 'streetscape' per say, you have a central area – the harbour and coastline – and also the road junction area at the entrance to your community. Both areas are quite splendid and a pleasure to encounter. The seat at the road junction must be welcomed by those out walking or cycling and its location set back from the road is ideal. We suggest that you remove the planters on either side of the seat as they are unnecessary. The slipway area is quite special and while we were there it was in use by those repairing boats in addition to a couple and their dogs heading out to sea. A busy little spot! We walked along the road parallel to the coast. It was very peaceful and with access to the coast across the green open space it is quite lovely. The seat overlooking the coast is perfectly located – a good choice by the community. Perhaps in time add one or two more. We also suggest a picnic bench at the pier which we feel would be well used.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are some very pleasant green spaces in your area. AS mentioned above we took time and walked up the new road where we were pleasantly surprised to come across the seat accessed via the gravel path. Along the entrance road to the village, you have planted wildflower seeds and we also saw some areas of the grass margin cut out

making beds with flowers growing in them. We noted quite a proliferation of Rosa Rugosa growing in numerous areas in Mayo and this with the strong dark pink colour of the flowers they make a vibrant contrast to the green grass and hedging. This might be a plant you could put in all of those dug out areas and due to the length of the area/road it would make a huge impact at the village entrance. Be warned it IS invasive and so you will need to control it. It's good to see that you have some of the younger generation helping with planting and looking after your floral displays We always love to see children involved. Truthfully there is no need for plants in plant containers for your area. Planters are used in streetscape where planting in the ground is not possible. Elsewhere they shouldn't be used. Just put the plants and flowers directly into the ground – less maintenance and watering for you.

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

Your area has a great diversion of habitats for insects, birds and mammals - stone walls, hedgerows, mature trees and the wonderful coastline. The hedge rows were very colourful with a variety of wildflowers in bloom and were buzzing with insect life – honeysuckle, foxglove, ox-eyed daises, cornflowers, etc. all in bloom when we visited. Just cutting a grass margin of 600mm allows the wildflowers and grass further back to bloom which helps biodiversity and we are delighted that you have allowed for this. We read that the project you're hoping to develop is planting wildflower seed for biodiversity. We encourage you to take seed pods from the wildflower plants growing in the area and plant these, as these are the ones which will survive/thrive. It takes time to do this but the result will be very wonderful.

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

This is a category where many communities struggle but it's just about how we use the resources of the world in our daily lives and as a community. We noted some wild mint growing along the new road verges. The flowers of this will be good for our pollinators especially bees, butterflies and hoverflies while those in the community can use the leaves in cooking. A win win for all! Find out what individuals are doing about waste etc. Have any of the community got vegetables, fruit bushes, apple trees growing? Do they make their own compost? Do you exchange plants? Have they water butts and use this water for the gardens? There are many other ways to advance in this category and we suggest that you examine the website <http://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Sustainable-Waste-and-Resource-Management.pdf> which may give you some ideas for your community. Also contact the environment officer in Mayo Co Co who will tell you on events/ talks which you could attend to learn more about Sustainability – doing more with less.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We love to read that communities take part in the annual An Taisce Spring Clean-Up and we commend you for organising this locally. This annual event focuses the attention of a community on the need to be vigilant on litter, fly-tipping and weed growth. We are delighted to report that the area was litter free when we visited, so well done to all concerned. Cutting back invasive species is hard work and we see that you undertake this with the growth of the rhododendron and briars. Along coastal areas there's always additional litter control to be undertaken with jetsam, flotsam etc. We were delighted to read that your community participated in the Clean Coasts 'BigBeachClean24' – compliments to the young volunteers. We assume this will now become an annual event. It's good to read that you provide bins so that people walking the beach can pick up rubbish/jetsam while the walk. Maybe put up a small sign near the entrance asking those visiting 'Please. Just pick up three pieces of litter, to help keep our beach clean'. We've seen similar small signs elsewhere and when people see the sign they tend to help. Your road signage was clean and easily read which is important for road safety. Could the container along the coast road be camouflaged? Maybe with some planting or painted so that it's not so intrusive? Is it privately owned or by the community? Permission might be needed. We suggest tidying the signs at the pier area – group them together so that they are isn't so untidy.

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

Set in rural Mayo the residents have contributed positively to making the area extremely pleasant and welcoming. The neatly trimmed grass margin and with freshly painted boundary walls and fences and neat kept gardens the area is a pleasure to encounter. Single and two storey traditional houses are the predominant style of houses along the roads. Shrub and herbaceous borders were noted in some gardens and some residents had specimen trees as features. We also noted that others had colourful window boxes and also neat floral displays hanging on walls. There is an interesting two storey house/lightkeepers house? at the end of the coast road. The castellated top to the walls and lightweight metal balconies gives a gracious appearance. Hopefully it will be renovated and reused as it dominates the area and so is an important feature in the streetscape. The cut stone gate piers are also quite beautiful.

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

You are approached from land via a narrow winding road, the margins of which you maintain. We admired this entrance with its neatly trimmed grass margins informing the motorists that they are entering a 'settlement' and so to reduce speed. Your road is narrow and so safety of your community is a priority for you. With the 600mm (2ft) grass margin you have given the walkers and cyclists space to stand in off the road when traffic approaches. The Béal A'Bhuláin sign had been freshly painted and was easily read. We admired the scallop shells set in the name sign and also the white beach stones celebrating your coastal location. The road parallel to the coast had been resurfaced recently and looked good. This gives access to the green space along the coast and also to the Suíochán Feasa overlooking the coast. We suggest that the path to the seat is better defined. Continue the gravel/ 804 path as far as the road and put some large stones of similar size (touching) as an edging the whole way along. Maybe paint

them white for impact? These can be easily moved to trim any grass encroaching on the path. Again, the planters here are unnecessary as there are a great variety of wildflowers in the long grasses either side of the path which is sufficient. There is some unravelling of the surface at the pier. This is something for you to monitor and report to the Mayo Co Co area office when it deteriorates and becomes potholed.

Concluding Remarks:

We were delighted to visit your village, our first visit, and thoroughly enjoyed our stay as we meandered around taking in the sights. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2025 competition and we look forward to seeing you again next year. It was a pleasure to adjudicate Béal A'Bhuláin.