

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogher - An Clochar** Ref: **459**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **344**
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	47	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	44	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	333	344

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 Tidy Towns competition and thank you for your application form, photos, map, map legend and 3/5 Year Plan. You are a committee of ten with eight volunteers who are available when jobs need doing. We checked your website and found information about the walks but other pages seem to have a problem. This like all social media accounts needs to be updated regularly. While you didn't tell us about your ClogherHeritageCentreFacebook page ... we found it. Add this next year to the information about you. We're delighted to read that you continuously engage with state and semi-state organisations and also with local businesses, farmers and community members – vital for the success of Tidy Towns committees. This is your sixteenth year participating in the Tidy Towns competition and we have no doubt that like other communities your participation has encouraged a pride of place amongst the residents. We trust that the adjudicators' reports over the past sixteen years have been helpful. We noted that you didn't have any specific project this year where particular effort was made. Just write 'ongoing maintenance' or some other such phrase so that we'll know you didn't forget to fill it in.

See Concluding Remarks for advice on filling out the application form and producing a map.

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

The adjudication area is spread out over very pleasant Mayo landscape with the core at the Community Centre and nearby National School. The Heritage Complex opened in 2004 is wonderful. Stonework, windows and woodwork kept well in all of the buildings. Your thatch will need to be repaired as it has deteriorated. What a wonderful array of old farm machinery you have restored and now display beside the Heritage Centre. These celebrate the rural and farming traditions of the surrounding area. Take care not to clutter the area, which is very easily done, and only accept machinery that you don't already display. Staunton's forge looked good. Is the building used by the community? If yes, let us know the activities that take place there. We approached the village past the Native Woodland area – if you could get rid of the two signs on the fence this would be great. The fence here needs attention. Is Clock an Altar the large rock in the field? If it is, it would be nice to have a path (not for public use) mown from the sign to the rock and to have the rock itself and surrounding 1.5 M cleared of vegetation so that it is clearly visible. Good to see other discrete signage concerning the history/heritage of the area e.g. Clogher House, Clogher Lodge, Mile Stone, townland names etc. Where was the original location of the Three Headed Dragon Tailed Hound sculpture? Interesting reading about Drum Graveyard; we had a walk around the paths – it's quite beautiful. Stone stiles were noted in a few places and it's good to keep these clear of ivy growth to allow easy

access; another job for you. Your Holy Well is beautiful.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

While there is no central 'Green Space' you have a great many areas where the community can visit and relax. There are some wonderful mature trees along your roads which add to the beauty of the area and are great for our wildlife. In addition, trees are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. The new trees along the grass margins should have suckers etc. removed. The GAA facility – CLG Baile an Tobair – is a great amenity and with the freshly painted walls and gates looked good. We admired your Native Woodland area. We suggest that an area of the grass between the ornamental bushes and sign be left unmown so that wildflowers and grasses can grow. This could be cut in the spring and then again in the autumn removing the cut grass at that stage. There are some very well located, strategically positioned, stone surround planting beds along the roads with a variety of shrubs and flowers which looked good. Some were in need of attention but we have no doubt that this was done by your volunteers. Remove the planter beside the Millennium 2000 grotto – it's superfluous. The statue and surrounding stone are sufficient in this area. There are planters along entrance roads which again are superfluous as the stone walls behind them are quite beautiful. Make permanent planting beds in these locations if you feel the need for floral colour and movement. Planters (and window boxes) if used, should be hidden by the plants, so 'trailing' plants in addition to 'upright' plants should always be used.

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

Your area is quite large and so with mature trees and woodlands, dry-stone walls, established hedgerows, and surrounding fields you have a great variety of habitats for insect, mammal and bird life. Your woodland areas are wonderful and with the variety of looped walks it's great to see that the community can engage with nature without having to travel very far. When we visited, we met some boys out for a cycle enjoying life together in the open air. You mention that you have 'regular heritage events promoting biodiversity'. Tell us more about this next year. Do you have visiting experts? How many people attend? Are they aimed at the youth as well as adults? Are the local school children engaged in any nature /biodiversity projects? This is something you could offer to the teachers and, we don't doubt, they would readily accept your offer. Poster competitions about an aspect of nature springs to mind but there are so many other projects you could do. Well done to the local landowners for allowing the various looped nature walks to cross their farmland - we saw one at the back of the graveyard. This is quite a generous commitment from them to your community. Leave no Trace is vital.

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

The Plants Swap area was great. We love to see these easy undertaken sustainable activities in communities. All gardeners need to divide plants so repotting them for others is great. Do you do the same with harvest products? It would be great to begin this if it's not already undertaken. We popped into the polytunnel. A great display of vegetables growing. Bamboo stakes in position for peas, beans and sweet pea. We see you have a compost area divided into sections which is well used. We also noted polytunnels in gardens which we were delighted to see. We encourage communities to undertake activities to reduce waste and growing our own food certainly cuts down on carbon emissions, pesticide and fertilizer use, and packaging. In addition, home grown vegetables taste better and provide better nutrition. In an area as large as Clogher we have no doubt that there are great hedgerows full of free food. Have you arranged any foraging walks? These are a great bit of fun and children in particular enjoy collecting the wild strawberries, blackberries, rose hips, crab apples etc. We see that community volunteers assist in the FEAD programme. It's sad to think this is needed but we know that in many communities, residents are struggling to live. Compliments to all who are committed to helping others less fortunate. We noticed the refill bottle facility at the Heritage Complex. Is this on a well source or on a community water supply? Compliments to the school on their Green Flag achievements. Good to see the polytunnel in the grounds was being well used. Where is the new linear orchard you mentioned in the Application Form? You failed to indicate it on the map.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We assume like most TidyTown committees you took part in the An Taisce Annual Spring which takes place during the whole month of April. It is a wonderful Nationwide event for a community, as it focuses all on the need to be attentive to litter, fly-tipping and weed growth. We're delighted to report that the village and surrounding roads were virtually litter free when we visited so you, your volunteers and the whole community are to be complimented for this. We see that you monitor and clear litter from the nature trails, the local section of the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail and the Clogher Bog Loop Walks. We suggest you ask the members of your community to bring a bag with them when they're out waling and just pick up three pieces of litter. This would cut down hugely on the work of your volunteers. We love to hear that school children are asked to help in litter picking as it encourages them to take pride in where they live. We noted some empty poles along the roads. We suggest you do a survey of your area and make a list of poles that are empty and signs that are unnecessary and ask the local area office to remove them – you'll probably have to ask a few times as it has to be put into the area office's work programme. Have you plans to repair the sundial in the Heritage Centre Garden?

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

Located in rural Mayo the residences in the village are generally vernacular single and two storey houses while those on approach roads are farmhouse surrounded by neatly kept yards and fields. The standard of presentation of individual houses within the village environs, and on the approach roads was generally very good and we applaud the many home owners and occupiers who clearly take pride in their place and keep their front facades, road frontage, gardens and boundary walls well-presented and neatly maintained in support of your work. We noted a

few gardens with pollinator friendly plants which we applaud. Don't forget to encourage the community to grow these from now on. There are many website where you can get a list, in addition to actions to help pollinators; we suggest the website <https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Garden-Pollinator-Guidelines-2022-WEB.pdf> for ideas for the garden.

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

Long stretches of dry-stone walling, grass margins with a wonderful array of wildflowers and neatly trimmed hedgerows welcomed us to your village/area. Planting beds in strategic locations also added to the streetscape. We admired the well-maintained Marian Year shrine again located in a strategic location at the junction of the two roads. A row of trees to the rear (e.g. silver birch) would add to this. This road junction is extremely wide – it would be good to see it narrowed and a community green space with picnic benches added. Road surfaces were generally good but you have some edge breakup which will need attention in the future. You have a great number of walks for your community The Holy Well Walk (5kms), Clooncundra Walk, Clogher Bog Loop Walk (8kms) and Newtown Forest Trail. We looked for some of these but couldn't find them. Unfortunately, time doesn't permit us to enjoy any walk when we're adjudicating so a return visit is needed. We were delighted to see that the signage for the Bog Loop Walks was clear and discrete. These signs should never be big. We admired the timber round fencing along the road beside the wooded area - an ideal material for this setting.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your village ... but we have a few suggestions for 2026.

- In the Application Form please number the projects New (N1, N2, N3 etc) and M (M1, M2, M3 etc). This same numbering system to be used to indicate the locations of these projects on a map – N1, N2, N3 etc and M1, M2, M3 etc. If you wish you can colour code the various categories to make it even clearer. This is to help the adjudicators to negotiate their way around your village and see the various projects or locations of projects. All future Projects go into your Plan.
- We suggest that you update your plan and make it a Five-Year Plan. In addition to having projects under the categories in the Tidy Towns application form, you have a member of the community who will take the lead/responsibility for implementing/progressing the project/activity. Add the names of collaborators (you'll need help) and put a tick in a box after the project/activity to show progress on an annual basis. The Plan needn't be onerous and also doesn't need to have projects/activities under each category. Just do what you can.
- Your map was difficult to negotiate. While you gave us a separate legend there were some projects that we found very difficult to find.
- Next year insert the photos into the relevant categories rather than sending a separate document. Ask one of your youths to do this - PRO for Clogher Tidy Towns will look good on their C.V.

We wish to state that this is not a criticism of your work but to explain to you that as adjudicators we rely on a clear application form and accompanying map to inform us of your projects and make our visit rewarding. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2025 competition and we hope this report is of help. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Clogher.