

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiltimagh - Coillte Mach** Ref: **533**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **354**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	44	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	37
TOTAL MARK	550	343	354

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.

Thank you for your completed application form which included photos, you map with projects numbered and a brief five-year plan. We found the map very difficult to read even when we enlarged it on the computer so we recommend that you get a new map for next year. You are a committee of four with ten who volunteer when extra hands are needed. We visited your page Facebook page which has 1.2K followers and was delighted to see that it is updated regularly. In order to keep the interest of the community social media must be updated regularly, so well done. We're delighted to see that in addition to state and semi state organisations you also have support from community groups and local businesses. We read that you've participated in the Tidy Towns competition for over 20 years and we are delighted to read that this has assisted the town and also wider community around Kiltimagh. We like you mission statement 'The Focus of Kiltimagh Tidy Towns is to continually improve our local environment and make our town a better place to work & live'.

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

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

The town is a mix of two and three storey residences and business premises comfortably intermingled along your main streets. Add to these the Holy Faily RC Church, the old cinema building, the old infirmary, the railway buildings, and the old bank buildings, etc to complete the architectural merit of th town. Please compliments the businesses on their presentation which makes an impression on the visitor. We particularly admired the presentation of the building and landscaping which was undertaken by Kiltimagh Park Hotel. Also Ryan's Bar, Cill Aodain Court Hotel, Teahc Ó'Hora, Henegans Poitigeir (advice - the upper floor should be rendered between the windows), etc. Great to see the Men's Shed – it was locked when we passed by. We read that the painting of unoccupied and derelict buildings is ongoing. There are various funding opportunities for property owners to help with this work - Shop Front Enhancement Grant, Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Built Heritage Grant Scheme etc. Has Mayo Co Co any other source of funding for streetscape properties? Wonderful to read that new businesses have started and that also some of your diaspora have returned to Kiltimagh and these too have opened businesses. The Market Square is very beautiful but if the parked cars were removed it would be perfect and another beautiful Community space for all to enjoy. Something for you to discuss with Mayo Co Co. It has been achieved in other towns e.g. Mullingar, where the centre square, which was a carpark, is now a wonderful pedestrian area with seating etc. We loved the grotto area at Carrick but the evergreens and surrounding trees need to be trimmed as they're closing in on the area. The Past and Present mosaic is beautiful – compliment to the artist

and all involved in its commission. We admired the new very informative signage on the walls of the Market Square – better if they had been grouped together. Remember signage is clutter and should ALWAYS be grouped together so as to be less obtrusive. Interesting Picnic Pods in the Emigrant Park – we loved them.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have a great variety of community green spaces in your town – the Sculpture Park, Emigrant Park, Wetlands Park, Glore Park, and the Community Garden – all of which were visited. The Sculpture Park and Emigrant Park are both very beautiful and very different Community Spaces. We read that following Storm Eowyn you had considerable work to undertake – well done as when we visited the green spaces were well presented. The Wetland Park with its wonderful sculpture 'The Way Home' was admired... but see below for additional comments. We loved the Community Garden – the mural, gates, pathways, seats, planting and discrete 'Acknowledgements' sign. What a wonderful space in the centre of the town; we hope that your Market Square will be similar the next time we visit. We read that you planted over 2000 native Irish trees including Rowan, Birch, Hazel, White Hawthorn and Fruit trees in the 6.5-acre Emigrant Park. We advise that these and also the trees in the Sculpture Park should be examined and have suckers removed. Also check ties and stakes which many community groups fail to do and so irreversible damage is caused to the bark of trees. You have great plans for this park - put them into your Five-Year Plan next year. The Sculpture Park is very different and here too we enjoyed the peace and quiet while we admired the sculptures. The Velorail project is in its infancy and you also have undertaken to maintain this area – the freshly painted gates were admired. Elsewhere in Kiltimagh you maintain planting beds and planters. We noted the three tier planters which you use to 'enhance the streetscape of Kiltimagh'. Remember the best plant containers are those which are concealed by the plants, so next year, if you decide to use them, add trailing plants to these. We also suggest that you carefully select locations for these, as they should only be used in areas for maximum effect where permanent planters are unsuitable.

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

With dry-stone walls, great hedgerows, mature trees, forests, the Pollagh tributary and the Gweestion and Glore Rivers you have a great variety of habitats for insects and mammals. We visited the 1.5-acre Wetlands Park and loved this area. Some of the grass is neatly cut to allow the community access to sit in the calm and admire the sculptures, while the remainder of the site is allowed to grow and be a haven for insects, birds and small mammals. We loved the bird hide ... it was locked when we visited. There was considerable weed growth on the gravel paths – either rake these regularly or allow grass to grow and cut paths through the grass for access. There's also a considerable number of signs scattered around the area – group them together for less clutter and remove any duplicates or unnecessary signage. At the moment it's quite unpleasant. Good to read that you take advice from experts in relation to the work you undertake here. We love that the children are involved in sampling exercises - "Pond Dipping". We visited Glor Mills Arts Center and see that it is permanently closed – please update your Application Form next year. We read that the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) has provided funding for a 'native nursery establishment and invasive species management' in your Wetland areas. Tell us about the progress of this next year. Have you had success with your bird boxes in the Emigrant Park? Also tell us more about the Sand Martin wall and caller – any success? We read that the local TY students are involved in building an outdoor Willow Classroom – we looked in the Emigrant Park but didn't see it.

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

This category is one where many community groups struggle but it's just about being aware of how we use the resources of the planet so that we cut down on our waste. Tidy towns committees are encouraged to try and prevent the generation of waste when carrying out their day-to-day activities.

We read that decorative stone has been re-laid on planting beds which will cut down on the frequency of watering. Is it your plan to have a community garden at Emigrant Park. We saw disused raised bed, polytunnel and water tank. The use of Corten steel and timber benches in the Emigrant Park was noted - materials which require little maintenance. We loved the Wellness Garden at the Youth Reach Centre. The tree mural with the bird boxes was a bit of fun. We loved to see the polytunnel and hopefully the youth will be encouraged to use it and grow vegetables etc. The fruit trees and bushes are growing slowly – patience will be needed before fruit is harvested. We see that you use your Facebook page to inform the community of events such as Waste and Wee Recycling and that the GAA ground is used to accommodate these events. Good to see the schools involved in the An Taisce Green Flag Programme – compliments to the teachers and pupils as participation, hopefully, teaches the children of the effects of their activities on the planet. You have a new coffee shop – find out what are they doing with the coffee grinds. Are they offering them to their customers to take away for their compost?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We assume like most Tidy Towns groups you took part in the An Taisce Spring Clean-Up. This event focuses the attention of a community on the need to be vigilant on litter, fly-tipping and weed growth. When we visited the centre of the town was virtually litter and weed free but as we went towards the outskirts, some weed growth was also noticed at kerbs, base of walls and in open gravel areas which gave an unkempt feel. Ask the litter pick-up team to bring a hoe and stiff brush with them and to also remove weed growth. We read that you have weekly cleanups to address litter on the streets and back lanes. The TY students of the St Louis Community School and the boys and girls of your local Scout Group and Foróige Group also lend a hand. Please commend them on the absence of litter in your town – they're doing a great job for their community. We've commented above on the signage in the Wetlands – please address this. We also recommend that you remove the dog fouling signs which, in places, detract from your streetscape. We advise instead that you paint 'Clean up after you Dog' on the pavement where dog fouling is a problem. We've been told this is more successful than signs on poles etc. Pity you had to put

up a 'Vandalism' notice on your new seat – which by the way is beautiful. Compliments on the seating around the town and on the approach roads which you maintain. While we noted that some of your utilities had been put underground others hadn't e.g. James Street. Undergrounding of cables adds to the streetscape so check when you are you in line for this to be completed. The discrete notices telling us the use/owners names of some of the buildings was excellent.

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

You have a great mix of two and three storey residences on the main streets of the town boasting a variety of architectural styles which gives an interesting streetscape. Some of these had been freshly painted and presented well. Some had floral displays in window boxes and hanging baskets which added to the streetscape. We visited the many housing estates – Sliabh Cairn, Walshtown, Rath Cluain, Altbawn Crescent, Cois Abhainn, The Pines etc. Here some of the residents had made wonderful efforts to present their properties – freshly painted walls and fences and gardens with a great variety of colourful pollinator friendly flowers as herbaceous borders or in planters and window boxes. Some had made additional effort with specimen trees which added to their property. The name sign of some of the residential estates need to be refreshed as they are difficult to read – paint worn. Please advise the resident's association on the environmental methods of trimming the grass kerbs and removing weeds at road edges. It takes time to use a lawn edger, hoe and stiff brush but the work produces perfect results. Compliments to the residents of Rath Cluain on the beautiful permanent planting beds along the wall - catmint, lupins, lilies etc all in bloom when we visited. Trees are needed on many of the open communal spaces in the residential estates. We recommend that trees be planted in rows or small coppices in areas not needed for ball play e.g. along entrance roads and on the perimeter and corners of communal green spaces. In addition to trees being wonderful structural elements in the landscape, they are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. They also help reduce pollution, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food, roosting sites and nesting sites for birds. In the immediate vicinity of the town and along the main roads, farm houses with well-kept farmyards were noted. Boundary hedges were neatly trimmed giving good visibility to the motorist. The triangular green communal space on the Bohola Road was admired – grass neatly cut and trees well maintained.

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

We admired your road name signs on the approach roads e.g. Bohola Road, Kilkelly Road, Station Road, etc. Good to see the name in Irish too. The stone-surround planting beds at some of the Fáilte town entrance signs lacked planting when we visited – we're assuming this was done. We visited some of the back lanes and see the work you have undertaken in painting some of these premises. Hopefully other property owners will take a lead from you. We approached from the north along the busy R321. The roadside edge of the margin (about 1M wide) should be trimmed the whole way between the town name sign and the town to inform motorists that they are entering a settlement and so must reduce speed. We noticed the black and yellow painted kerb stones in a few locations which gave a very pleasant boundary to the adjoining planting beds etc. We loved the Velorail. Is it still in use? Tell us more about this next year. We noted that there are rumble strips and dropped kerbs at some of your road junctions. These are vital for those with mobility scooters and those pushing buggies. Make an audit of the town and request that these be installed by Mayo Co Co to make your town accessible to all. The work to the pedestrian crossing on Mai Street was noted.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your town ... in addition to the above we have a few extra suggestions for 2026.

- We see that you number the projects as N (New) and M (Maintained) in the application form but we'd appreciate if you could transfer these numbers to the map. If you wish you can colour code the various categories or use shapes (squares, triangles etc) to make it even clearer. This is to help the adjudicators to negotiate their way around your town and see the various projects or locations of projects.
- Please provide a Legend with your map which will greatly assist future adjudicators.
- We note you have a Kilmaine Village Enhancement Plan but it would be clearer if you used the categories in the Tidy Towns Application Form and had activities/projects using these categories. It needn't be onerous – just add what you can achieve in terms of activities/projects under the various categories. Add the name of one committee member to lead/advance the project and put the names of collaborators after each activity/project as you'll need help with many of the projects - financial or otherwise.
- All FUTURE PROJECTS will be in your plan. When they have been completed, then, and only then, will you include them in your Application Form, and then as a NEW project.

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.

We also ask that you make reference to the Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage you to look at the presentation by Limerick Co Co as it is extremely helpful

The link is : [https://www.limerick.](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

[ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf). Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2025 competition. It was a pleasure to adjudicate Kiltimagh.