

# Tidy Towns Competition 2026

## Adjudication Report

|           |                                   |          |            |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Centre:   | Newcastle Lyons - An Caisleán Nua | Ref:     | 817        |
| County:   | Dublin                            | Mark:    | 367        |
| Category: | E                                 | Date(s): | 20/06/2026 |

|                                           | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2025 | Mark Awarded 2026 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80           | 54                | 55                |
| Streetscape & Public Places               | 80           | 50                | 51                |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping              | 80           | 47                | 49                |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality  | 80           | 29                | 32                |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less     | 80           | 26                | 28                |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90           | 60                | 62                |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 55           | 44                | 46                |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 55           | 42                | 44                |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>600</b>   | <b>352</b>        | <b>367</b>        |

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

Fáilte go Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2026. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur n-iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur gceantar go dtí seo - guíonn muid gach rath oraibh in bhur dtionscadail amach anseo.

Thank you, for entering the 2026 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition, and you are welcome to this years competition. You are an active committee of twelve with a good twenty seven member, volunteer base. Your Facebook page is active with news items, you might like to include more items on biodiversity sustainability for example.

As you do it is also important to use print media to inform people who are not involved in reading social media. One of the best forms of communication is word of mouth, for example getting a volunteer member to recruit or invite another friend to a Tidy town session. Some volunteers may not like the outdoor aspect but could be very good at admin and social media, their talents could be most useful to your Tidy towns team. Meeting regularly three times a week ensures great communication and social comradery with members. You may encourage more resident associations, particularly new estate members to take part in their own immediate neighbourhood. Having a teacher and school alongside your activities is great outdoor classroom education for the younger generation to get involved and hopefully enjoy outdoor activities. Thank you for your five-year plan which focuses on all Tidy Towns Categories, When considering new projects such as tree planting etc consider that these will need extra resources for maintenance until established should will need to make allowances regarding volunteer availability etc. Thank you for your map which was clear and easy to follow.

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

Newcastle Lyons has a mix of very old and very modern buildings which by and large do complement one another. There are some lovely old structures. Saint Finian's Church of Ireland is a lovely building with immaculate grounds. The information boards linking the heritage trail with QR code is very informative and useful for the viewer who also wishes to use newer technology. The information board on the Old School brings the thoughts of some people back in time. The Glebe House is another wonderful old building with the grounds around it nicely landscaped with the scent of roses that bring memories to some folk with the old agricultural antiquities. The new buildings at the front of Lidl complement the old and contemporary structures brings a comfortable architectural feel to the built environment with the decorative stonework. The Sports hall is a nice attraction for the fit and healthy and enticing to those of us who aspire to be. Some of the businesses showcase their shopfronts with pride. Annie May's is very inviting from both entrances. A lovely cosy feels to the window dressing at the Coffee shop at the Lidl Entrance, Reilly estate agents are housed in a lovely building in the Market Square. Newcastle Shopping Centre could do with an improvement in signage as there is a lot of faded and battered signage on the shopping centre and for some of the

services that is a put off and bad for business. Brady's Butcher and Mc Cabe's Pharmacy have nice enticing shopfronts and good signage. The Circle K garage looked busy, orderly and very clean. The post box appearance here is very poor with ugly rust and grey galvanised appearance, it should be replaced or repainted. The Donkey cart is very pretty and the street furniture is in good condition all ready to go for a good sit down. Some of the utility boxes around the village are very nicely decorated

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

There is some lovely pollinator friendly landscaping and planting around the town. The entrance signs are well planted, some with nice stone surrounds and sweetly scented roses. The Donkey Cart is a gem with the colourful plants and its colour lovely painted scheme amusing each other, no work to be done it is just parked up nicely, going nowhere just there to be admired. The greens are very well maintained and as you state Newcastle is a very long village, there are a lot of small pocket areas of greens, estate entrances and planters to be maintained. A lot of the beds have lovely stonework and the timber planters are well painted and maintained. The fruit and edible gardens have a sensory sight, scent and edible feel to them, with a look that some of the edibles are being enjoyed. The Glebe green is very well planted with old roses, some unusual old plants with a nice seating and play area being enjoyed by visitors during the visit. The Burgage hedge plots have an interesting history and feel to them, the sign here is very informative.

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

This is a category where you are doing a lot of work. The Tower House Park at Masons Cross is an interesting projects that compliments the Greenscape and Sustainability categories, with mixed hedgerows and semi-mature trees. The Managed for Wildlife wooden signage is good and made from sustainable materials. At the cemetery entrance the scent of Lavender and Catmint is purifying. You have some birdboxes situated around the village, an interesting exercise would be to do a census of these boxes to see if they are being used and what bird species are using them. Overwinter it may be an idea to check them out for past season activity and clean if necessary, using warm water and gloves. Noted also are some of the areas let grow wild to encourage wildlife. The tiered mowing of grass is a good idea to promote seasonal flora and fauna. When mowing wildlife larger meadow areas, don't mow the whole meadow at once. Start slowly from the inside, leave some safe havens for frogs etc to escape into, observe any frogs, shrews etc that may be there giving them time to migrate to a safe haven. Do check some of our newly planted trees for hardware issues such as stakes and ties. Adjust ties, replace stakes and remove if no longer required if the tree has a table root plate.

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

This is a category where you are active, doing more with less resources. Your April talk on house energy and heat pumps where applicable is a good venture, it would be interesting to learn of those who attended how many are converting, or if not, what help do they need? Noted are the electric charging points in the estates at Graydon and Masons cross, wide footpaths are necessary with this type of infrastructure. The Adjudicator cycled through these estates and is appreciative of the cycle lanes. Walking and cycling to school are both an environmental and social benefit to the school going generation and should be healthily encouraged. Linking in with the Community Guard on safe cycling and walking practice can be a beneficial life learning and lifesaving lesson for the younger population. The adjudicator observed on their cycling travels some youngsters walking in the direction of oncoming traffic rather than facing the traffic where there was no footpath on the outskirts of the village. Bus commuter traffic through the village is good and could be improved with more bus shelters provided at some stops. The recycling and repurposing of old clothes and items is both a good fun raising and good fundraising and sustainable event

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Your volunteers and street cleaners are doing an excellent job keeping Newcastle litter and weed free. Cobble flagstones which tend to gather a lot of weed litter were very clear. Gullies and shores dirt and debris free. A small bit of graffiti seen on a litter bin outside the shopping centre, murals nicely painted on the utility boxes is thankfully discouraging the tag artists. Recycling areas are very clean and tidy and in proper use

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

Ballynakelly Cottages is a lovely mature estate with well kept cottage style houses, individual home styles with nicely kept gardens. Road and path surfaces are good with nice nature strips well edged. Nice pocket greens with Trees and shrubs. Market Square is a lovely intown development with new terrace houses all wearing solar roof panels, this estate is well maintained with some nice pocket planting with fragrant pollinator plants. Mason Cross is a nice new development with mixed house types, good access road with wide cycle lanes and footpaths. Some homes here welcoming their new residents to their lovely new houses. Nice planting schemes throughout the estate with the lovely nature biodiversity garden at the entrance. Sitting here one is also borrowing the landscape from the surrounding countryside.

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

All the approach roads to Newcastle are good, arriving into Newcastle one knows one has arrived with the colourfully planted welcome signs. Signage is clean tidy and easy to read. Road margins are good and nicely

planted. Road surfaces are good bot both cycling and driving on with evidence of good ongoing maintenance.

**Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to adjudicate Newcastle this year. It is evident you are doing good work for your community and environment in a town that is growing and combining old and new in harmony. Your good work as a Tidy Towns team cements this relationship.