Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Allenwood - Fiodh Alúine**	Ref:	**2205**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**298**
Category:	**C**	Date(s):	**22/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	27	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**289**	**298**

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.
This was my first visit to Allenwood, Co. Kildare as the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026. Thank you for your very comprehensive and detailed entry submission complete with thumbnail photographs setting out your work. Your entry also includes the Allenwood Biodiversity Action Plan for 2021-2025, your Sustainable Development Goals Local Action Framework, the Allenwood Tidy Towns 3-year plan for 2023-2026, and your locality map with the location of your 2026 projects highlighted.
For 2026, Allenwood Tidy Towns have entered into Catergory C Small Town population between 1001 and 2500. Your 8 active committee members and a very impressive core 45 volunteers work regularly on your projects. You are also supported by a CE worker in helping keep your town in good condition.
You have successfully taken part in the national Tidy Towns competition for 9 years. Your participation has resulted in Allenwood being a nice clean place to live in
Allenwood has a strong community spirit and many of your groups and club have worked alongside Tidy Towns in improving your town. Thank you to the local Scouts, Na Fianna Mens Shed, Scoil Mhuire Parents Association and Allenwood Celtic A. F.C.. Also thank you to the TY students from St. Farnan's Post-primary school in Prosperous who made their contribution.
Local businesses have also helped the work of the Tidy Towns.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare identified the support and assistance of Kildare County Council - the high standard achieved by the county's Tidy Towns family both in the past and in 2026 are a testament to the ongoing commitment and energy of the County Council.

Your presentation of your methods of communication covers all possibilities and is also very well set out. Thank you to the parish newsletter and regional newspapers for help in getting your message out.

The detailed 3 Year plan for 2023-2026 setting out main areas of activity included in your entry is now due for review and update, you have been successful with the playground and community park and other projects are in-progress. Your next plan might set out a timeline for delivery.

Your indexed map was excellent, and it greatly helped the adjudicator in identifying your key projects.

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

The main residential and commercial area of Allenwood is centred around a very busy crossroads, on the R403

road from Clane, the R415 from Kildare, and the L102O Station Road. While some residents live in the immediate vicinity of the crossroads, many of the residents live in housing estates adjacent to the town or in one-off housing in rural areas on the outskirts of the town.
In addition to the commercial businesses at each corner of the cross-roads, the main buildings in the town are the impressive church, and the national school. It was encouraging to see some building works under way at the Glennons Cafe. The streetscape also comprises a number of detached and semi-detached bungalows and a relatively recent development of 10 terraced 2-storey housing fronting onto the main street.
The recent re-purposing of the former credit union building on the R415 as a community centre to be used by Tidy Towns is very welcome. Congratulations on your work here, including the promotion of the Irish language.
It is hoped that both the Allenwood Healthcheck and Village Renewal Plan and the Allenwood Cross Junction Improvement Programme will commence soon, and these projects will make a significant difference to the overall quality of the town. Your identification of issues for the town health check will be critical for the whole community.
Some of the older picnic benches referred to in your submission as the central meeting point for the town might benefit from some attention.
The installation of the silhouettes as a road safety measure has been completed but traffic and traffic speed remains a key issue for the town.
Many of the local businesses have made efforts to improve the public realm but some of the shopfronts and security shutters might be improved.
Your entry mentions the Christmas tree and crib - it would be a good photograph of Allenwood in December in your next submission.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have continued your maintenance of the planters distributed throughout the town. The 2025 adjudicator suggested that where possible planters not be used on grassed areas where ground planting was possible and this report repeats that previous recommendation - ground planting of perennial natives is the suggested and preferred option if the opportunity arises.
Some of the wooden planters, for example in the verge outside the Tesco garage beside the barge sculpture, need to be better maintained.
In the town there is limited open space available for planting, generally the grass verges lining the road and the planters placed here were filled and generally maintained. As previously advised plants in the soil require less watering and are more effective than pot plants in keeping soil moist and cool. The planters mounted on the wall of the church were particularly eye-catching
However there is some opportunity for development of green spaces and landscaping outside the town centre, for example at the canal, and in the green spaces at Woodlawn and Whitethorn Park. Similarly the Allenwood campus might well provide space for planting and improvement.
There is also potentially some space at the Mens Shed and Playground for future consideration - possibly even the development of allotments. Congratulations on the maintenance and upkeep of the town's many colourful planters.

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

The increased importance of Nature and Biodiversity is recognised in the increased scoring for this category for the 2026 Tidy Towns competition. Your very ambitious Biodiversity Action Plan from 2021-2025 and your Local Action Framework have set out the various actions that Allenwood can undertake to help address one of the most pressing issues for this generation and following generations. Given your heritage and your location it is very fitting that you have identified the need to apply citizen science to start to assess the peatlands, woodlands and waterbodies to see where more protection is needed for biodiversity. There is no shortage of programmes and projects that need help.
Kildare County Council's Draft Biodiversity Action Plan for 2026-2031, which your own excellent Action Plan fed into, is an excellent document that might assist your future work. The document specifically identifies Tidy Towns as partners who might actively investigate opportunities to improve community biodiversity actions - the opportunities are there for you. We would also recommend continued engagement with the appointed Biodiversity Officer, and would also note that some of the other Tidy Towns in Kildare have also established links with third level colleges and researchers and assisted in for example work relating to water quality and air quality.
The 2025 adjudicator also suggested working with the schools in promoting interest in nature and biodiversity. Your Action Plan [Item 2.1.3] hoped to run a minimum of 1 wildlife related event (e.g. walks, talks, workshops) every year - that would be very worthwhile.
Best of luck with your work in 2026 and 2027, we look forward to next year's progress report.

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

The increased importance of Sustainability for all communities is recognised in the increased scoring for this category for the 2026 Tidy Towns competition.
Sustainability is a very broad concept and lots of opportunities are available for Tidy Towns communities to make an impact under this category.
Your community library at the community centre was well stocked on the day of the visit, a very worthwhile exercise in recycling and cutting down on waste.
On the day of the adjudication visit the number of recently installed solar panels to many houses are a very visible practical demonstration of the sustainability journey that Allenwood has embarked on. Given that Allenwood and it's historic power plant are in the front line of moving to a new green economy you might consider engaging with SEAI or other agencies to see what is possible for a community and households in Allenwood.
It would also appear from the adjudicator's visit that Allenwood is reasonably well served by public transport.

You mentioned exploring linking the out-of-town Allenwood campus and playground and Mens Shed with paths, cycleways, and bike parking facilities. It goes without saying that walking and cycling are not only the sustainable options - they are also the healthy options for all, with international research showing definite correlation between activity, health and happiness. Active travel options also increase the independence of young people. Notwithstanding the traffic issue for Allenwood it would be very encouraging to see more pupils and parents cycling to the school.
Perhaps it might be possible to encourage the national school to pursue a Green Flag with the help of Tidy Towns? These flags are awarded after a two-year student-led process to improve the environmental footprint of the school and local community.
You might also consider what recycling facilities are currently available in the town and outside of the town.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Allenwood Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and the CE worker have helped keep your town litter free. Thanks also to the local businesses who have also made their contribution,
On the day of adjudication the town was generally in good condition. There was very little litter and bins were available for use.
Unfortunately the planters on the Station Road at the side of the Allenwood XL store has become an open litterbin over a period of some time. This particular corner can be turned around quickly if some action is taken, and it is an exception to the general appearance.
Your previous submissions made mention of your monitoring of dumping in the peatlands - has this been discontinued?
As you know, litter control requires constant effort. Congratulations on your perseverance and your work.

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

The residents and wider community of Allenwood maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
As mentioned above, the estates at Woodlawn, Whitethorn Park and also The Willows were typical of the estates visited and most of the homes had very well maintained frontage with colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets. The green spaces often with trees and shrugs might provide opportunity for residents to plant some pollinator friendly plants. It is appreciated that some effort will be required but once planted, native wildflowers do a lot of very necessary work. Native wildflowers help support thriving endangered pollinator populations.
Most estates had their names prominently displayed often with good planting surrounds, mulched and maintained.
You have highlighted the planting of the native hawthorn hedgerow which was planted in Woodlawn and is now being monitored and maintained by the resident's association, in your 2026 entry. This project was also done as one of the objectives of your Biodiversity Action Plan. The native hawthorn is part of a longer boundary hedge comprised mainly of a non-native evergreen laurel hedge, which is very acceptable, offering a dense fast-growing boundary and is very well maintained. However the native hedge is preferred on a number of counts and Tidy Towns might encourage residents associations to pursue the native option wherever possible.

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

The general condition of all approach roads, verges, paths, signs, hedges and road markings was good.

Tidy Towns have carried out improvement works and planting to both sides of the Derrymullen Road which are being maintained. The bug hotel was nearly missed by the adjudicator. There was some graffiti on the main R415 sign that could be removed. The very colourful murals on the utilities boxes add to the general welcome.

Some of the heritage signs need to be refreshed as does the very unique bog train model on the verge of the R403 approach from Clane. The planters to the side of the XL Store could also be looked at again.

In spite of lack of pedestrian accessibility, the Bond Bridge over the Grand Canal offers great views and is well worth preserving and treasuring.

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Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of your town and the work the committee has carried out. Having the community centre available to you in the town offers a hub that will initiate and implement the ambitious plans that you have. Continued communication and co-operation of the Tidy Towns with the other community stakeholders and residents associations will continue to enhance Allenwood.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.