Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Ballymore Eustace - Baile Mór na nIústasach**	Ref:	**357**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**405**
Category:	**C**	Date(s):	**06/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	60	61
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	56	58
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	54	56
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	28	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	42	43
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	42
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**393**	**405**

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 Ballymore Eustace and I was impressed by your home town.
Thank you for your very detailed and well presented submission for the 2026 National Tidy Towns Competition in the Catergory C, Small Towns, population 1001 to 2500 .
You have been an entrant in the Tidy Towns competition for over 30 years.
Congratulations on being awarded your first gold medal in the Tidy Towns 2025 competition following on from a number of awards received in 2024. Further congratulations on your 2026 National Award for first recognised Age and Climate Village.

Your high quality submission of 70 pages covers a wide range of activities, and you also included a very useful and informative street map which was of great assistance to the inspection. You might consider some reduction in your submission for 2027.

Your 10 active committee members and a very impressive core 40 volunteers work on your projects. Thank you to your retiring chair and secretary committee members and welcome to the new committee officers - you have recognised that it is important that organisations are continually updating and moving forward with new energy while being mindful of the need not to lose the group's experience and knowledge built up over the years.

Your engagement with the Community Development Association, and your liaison with Ballymore Eustace Environmental (BEE) Group & Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) together with the other voluntary groups is essential to working effectively in a lively town the size of a Ballymore Eustace. Thank you to the many local sports and activity clubs, the choir, and your sponsors.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Ballymore Eustace 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.
On the very hot day of the visit, the CE workers were observed hard at work at the Tigin, which is a great facility for any Tidy Towns group to have.
You have mentioned that you intend to explore opportunities with the he Town Centre First programme being currently rolled out nationwide. This programme is a great opportunity for Ballymore Eustace to avail of additional

resources and skills to significantly help the town in many ways. The involvement of the Tidy Towns Committee into the preparation of the Town Centre First Plan is very much welcome. Compared to many similarly sized towns Ballymore Eustace is in relatively good condition.

Again your presentation of your methods of communication covers all possibilities and is also very well set out. Your delivery of the "What's going on in Ballymore Eustace" pamphlet to all new residents of the town is particularly welcome.

Comhghairdeas.

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

As you have noted, Ballymore Eustace contains distinctly different architectural types of buildings. The town comprises a wonderful mix of homes, public buildings and well-planned public spaces, complete with magnificent arched bridge over the Liffey, and centred on the wonderful square complete with Arch, fountain, planting and benches. The information signage throughout the town was excellent ranging from history and art to your native flora and fauna.
Ballymore Eustace has an abundance of excellent shopfronts, the Ballymore Inn at the square being a typical excellent landmark, Mick Murphy's red front in whitewashed 2-storey terrace also standing out, and the corner Thatch restaurant/bar also presents well, hopefully it will come back into use sooner rather than later.
The housing around the town is a very attractive mix of cottages, houses with some more modern housing distributed throughout. The gently sloping nature of the town adds to the streetscape. Many of the house are eye-catching including the stone faced 2-storey Georgian house with curved fanlight over red panelled door, fronted by a laurel hedge, set back from the R411, hopefully the ivy does not damage the stone and gutters
In terms of the major public buildings in the town, special mention is made of the historic St. John's Church Church on the outskirts of the town, this is a magnificent building, surrounded by a stone wall, and very well looked after graveyard, complete with magnificent trees and meadows. Best of luck raising the necessary funding for the planned restoration.
The Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception has a stunning stained glass window best seen from inside the church, and also has the community resource centre attached, good to see provision for ramped access here.
There appeared to be some construction work under way at the Scoil Mhuire Primary School.
It was noted that some strategically placed bollards have proved effective in terms of traffic control - well done here, careless car-parking often produces problems for other towns.
The 2025 adjudication report highlighted your proximity to the Liffey and it's role as a major amenity to your town. In terms of public space and it might have been because of the very good weather, and even though the town has excellent streets and public spaces, well looked after, the bench and deck overlooking the bridge was the brilliant highlight for this adjudicator.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Ballymore Eustace has many greenspaces throughout the town , provided and maintained by the Tidy Towns team.
Your flagship project for 2026 is the development and official opening of your Bloom Garden, complete with monumental sculpture, memorial stone and benching, and also having managed wildlife-friendly meadows surrounding the garden.
The other highlight of Ballymore Eustace green spaces and landscaping is the 5km Golden Falls Loop trail alongside the Liffey which is a mixture of path and boardwalk and and has the most stunning views. The community has worked on the forest providing fairy houses and a lot of yarn bombing. You have also expanded your Orchard, hopefully the varied 2026 crops will deliver. The 3 trees planted at the HSE building appeared to be in good condition.
In addition to your regular bulb and tree planting and your maintenance programmes including looking after your many planters, the significant effort required to achieve an 85% reduction in occurrence of the very damaging and invasive Himalayan Balsam species along the Liffey river banks was achieved over a number of years. The fact that hours worked in 2025 is a reduction on previous years does not necessarily mean that the threat has been eliminated unfortunately. As you will be aware constant vigilance is required to move toward complete eradication. Unlike planting and maintaining green spaces, the work is largely unseen but no less critical.
Thank you also for your move away from planters to ground planting wherever possible. You might look at the position of some of these planters in terms of being possibly obstructive to pedestrians with sight difficulties or wheelchair users or parents with prams.
With reference to your previously mentioned intention to replace the planted boats they appeared to be in excellent condition and well planted, with possibly the planting to the boat at the Liffey bridge needing some cut back, the pair of boats and the planting therein at the L2025/Plunkett Road are a great addition to the entrance at Barrack Street.

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.
In 2025 Ballymore Eustace scored the highest mark in Kildare in this particular category.
The objectives of your 2021-2025 Biodiversity Action Plan remain but you intend to progress the updating of the Plan. You will carry out a detailed report on successful implementation of the BAP 2021 to 2025 and are commencing work on the next detailed Biodiversity Action Plan. The tracking of your actions is key to the success of the Plan, it will be interesting for you to see how your 2021 plans moved to complete implementation, and also what additional actions came into view after initial commencement of your plan.

You are in the very fortunate position of having a treasure trove of ecosystems and habitats on your doorstep and to your credit together with the BEE group and the other committed stakeholders you have worked hard to ensure that your natural environment is protected and continues to thrive. Any river valley that has otters and kingfishers present has to be in relatively good health and enjoyed.
Your installation of the Tree Trail with good signage indicating tree types was previously admired in your 2025 report.
Your thumbnail photographs are a great record of your work in the last year, fantastic photographs, it will be interesting to see how your planting in Scoil Mhuire progress.
Well done, you have maintained your relatively high score in this category for 2026.

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.
The overall aim of the Sustainability category is to achieve decent lives for all on a healthy planet by 2030.
You have identified in your submission a number of measures that you have taken so as to realise this aim for your community.
Working with your Sustainable Energy Committee and with the SEAI, you have produced a Village Energy Masterplan and some very significant community retrofits on the Band Hall and the Tiglin resource centre including solar panels installation.
As with the previous category, Tidy Towns active partnering with the BEE group is essential to moving towards a sustainable Ballymore Eustace community. You have jointly hosted a number of sustainable events, under the banner of Share in the Square, a great name for a great initiative.
The promotion of the Green Flag programme in the school is another example of moving the community forward - thank you to the pupils, teachers and mentors of the programme, it is great to see a Green Flag flying over a school.
Well done also to Scoil Mhuire who are promoting their active travel programme by cycling, walking, and scooting to school. Extensive research has shown that not only are students healthier by cycling to school, they are also happier and more confident.
Another initiative is your use of the recycled mulch from Christmas trees for the walking trails, that is an excellent example of recycling, well done.
Your installation of the water butts at 4 locations in the town is also making an impact by holding water in heavy rain of flooding conditions and also using grey water where possible instead of unnecessarily using treated water.
As with other towns and villages, the implementation of the nationwide Deposit Return Scheme and the installation of the new vending machine in Fogarty's has resulted in a significant drop in plastic bottles and cans in littering.
Congratulations to the GAA Club on it's boot recycle programme - other clubs have successfully set up jersey recycling schemes which has the double advantage of reducing costs and also minimising jersey becoming unnecessary landfill.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Ballymore Eustace Tidy Towns has an obviously successful litter control strategy and very regular litter and pick-up patrols, and you also segregate cans and bottles where possible.
It was extraordinary to hear that on average there is a dog in every house in your town, but the Green Dog Campaign must be working, there was little evidence of canine misbehaviour anywhere in the town or on the trails.
You have also made efforts to control unwanted signage in the town - thank you to Lu's Chinese Takeaway for taking on board the request of the Tidy Towns in relation to their shutter, well done. Your spreadsheet in your submission setting out the status of the businesses in the town in relation to litter control is an interesting incentive for businesses to come on board.
Ballymore Eustace Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and the CE workers, have ensured that your town continues to have a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
The only exception noted to this high standard was some minor littering left behind at the car park at the bridge, and there was also a wooden pallet in the river. As stated above Ballymore Eustace was in very good condition in terms of litter control.
Congratulations on your work

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

You have set out in detail the various activities that the residents in St Brigids Park, Assumpta Tce, Liffey Heights and Liffey Court, Barrack St Close, Hillcrest and the two newly built large estates at River Walk and Tinnycross have undertaken so as to maintain the high standard of village housing and streets.
All of the estates were in good condition.
Congratulations on Liffey Heights on winning most improved award in the Kildare County Council Pride of Place awards - having seen many of the highest quality estates in the county this is very hard won prize, well done.
Your photographs show off some of the many homes that have been so well looked after, it is a credit to the gardening skills of the residents. They can be proud of their handiwork.

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

Your submission sets out in some detail a very comprehensive listing of the various works and actions you have taken to ensure that all approaches, streets and lanes are well maintained and looked after. You have identified 7 approach roads which necessitates a lot of planning, organisation and effort to maintain. Your 2026 submission repeats many of the actions from previous years.

As mentioned previously, the difficulties of working in a developing town with a number of construction sites is recognised.

This adjudicator arrived into Ballymore Eustace from Poulaphouca and left by the R413 for Brannockstown. Both approaches into the town had good clear signage at all junctions.

All approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges, or the occasional and welcome no mow strip, and well maintained hedgerows.

The general condition of roads and paths was excellent and it was a pleasure to walk around the community.

Concluding Remarks:

Given the detail and scope of your submission, the adjudicator has not been able to comment on every one of your actions in the Tidy Towns application, but they have all been taken into account in the adjudication process.

Ballymore Eustace Tidy Towns have continued to establish themselves as one of the most energetic, organised and ambitious teams for their community. Well done.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.