Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Brannockstown - Baile na mBreatnach**	Ref:	**358**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**332**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**06/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	29	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**321**	**332**

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.

The population of Brannockstown is approximately 900 people and the Tidy Town's is entered in the Category B Village of the National Tidy Towns competition.

Brannockstown Tidy Towns has a committee of five and also 5 regular volunteers who have worked well in 2026. You have regular meetings which are open to all in the community.

Brannockstown has entered the competition for nine years.

The Brannockstown submission for 2026 is excellent, sufficiently detailed and a very concise 16 pages and includes full details of all the work undertaken in the year. A detailed map index and referenced is also included in the submission, and this map was of great assistance to this adjudicator. It is respectfully suggested that the addition and inclusion of some thumbnail photographs would help your future submissions, particularly showing your work during the seasons of the year, for example your Halloween and Christmas decorations and events. It appears from review of previous adjudicators reports that your previous submissions included some photos of your activities.

You have highlighted that many organisations and numerous committed individuals have contributed to your work in the year.
Thank you to the Brannoxstown Community National School, Brannockstown Baptist Church, the Community Action Group and the local businesses including local stud farms, Appleto Property, Sandra Wixsted Nursery and Kildare Pumpkin Patch. The work of the Tidy Towns has also been supported by local councillors.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Brannockstown 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. Having a community WhatsApp group of 60 is a particularly useful tool for keeping everybody in Brannockstown informed.

You have also identified that the Tidy Towns group help newer residents become part of the community.

You have included a planting schedule in your submission, thank you. Do you have a 3-year plan in place to cover the categories?

Thank you for your excellent submission. You have a great legacy and a great community.

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

Brannockstown is a typical ribbon development, centred around the crossroads between the Dunlavin/Naas Road and the Barrymore Eustace/Kilcullen Roads, and is bounded by the Harristown Demesne and Ballymount Stud.

For a village, Brannockstown has an incredibly rich architectural heritage.
The lodge at the entrance gate to the Harristown Demesne is a beautiful building at the crossroads. The Brannockstown Baptist church is a beautiful building flanked by trees and well manicured lawns. The connection with the LaTouche family marked by a centenary stone.
The neighbouring Manse classic building is also a beautiful piece of architectural heritage.
The very fine and refurbished original school master's building is located between the Church and the National School.
The Community National School is the original National School building from 1885 with a very modern extension to the rear. The spelling of the Brannockstown National School remains a mystery to this adjudicator.
The roads are also lined by stone walls flanked by planted verges. The water pump opposite the school decorated with a bucket of geraniums attached is where the solar panel is installed which are used for the irrigation system for the linear bed length of flowers planted in the verge. The stone bench installed in the stone walls is an interesting feature with the cobbledock paving to the front.
The old pump on the Dunlavin Road has also been maintained and has a plant surround.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Given the rural nature of your surrounds Brannockstown is surrounded by green, be it trees, hedges, or field.
Your current entry indicate that your collective expertise in this particular competency, you have everything that any village would hope for in relation to choice of flowers and plants, planting and maintenance of spaces and landscaping throughout the village. The fact that you have a recommended planting plan from 2022 that you have commenced will help pollination and biodiversity.
You appear to have chosen your flowers for colour, in your planting and maintenance programme. You have definitely brought some colour to Brannockstown by having numerous tiered and flat planters placed at key positions particularly at the demesne gate, as mentioned previously the use of perennials is always encouraged.
There were some tyres spotted in the front playground of the school, their purpose was not clear, but it is hoped that they would not be used as planters.
Your planting of bulbs is also welcomed, a host of golden daffodils is always a wonderful sight but please bear in mind the mantra that monoculture is the enemy of diversity.

The constant need to water, thin out and and weed around is key to the ongoing presentation of your flowers, plants and landscaping.

Thank you for your excellent work.

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.
You did not have a specific project in 2025 relating to nature and biodiversity but as the previous adjudicator pointed out you are in effect situated in a wonderful outdoor classroom where it is all on your doorstep. You do have plenty of opportunity to encourage nature and biodiversity in Brannockstown.
It might be worthwhile talking to other Tidy Towns groups and to the Kildare County Council Biodiversity Officer, this will prove to be a great resource for you and all the community to draw on.
In particular engagement with the school community including the teachers, pupils and parents can often yield surprising results, and there are also many nature-based voluntary organisations that may be of assistance.
We look forward to seeing how best you can take advantage of your magnificent surroundings.

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.
Your flagship project under this heading is your installation in 2024 of your innovative irrigation system using solar panels and water from the well to regularly water the approximate 700m of planting and flowers alongside the R413 route. While other tidy towns have used some similar technologies to reduce the need for daily watering by hand, the length of irrigation pipe installed here is definitely and outlier. Thank you for sharing your experience with other groups - learning and sharing is one of the core values of the Tidy Towns groups and communities.
Please be aware that sustainability comes under many headings, and there are a wide variety of schemes and programmes that might be considered by the Brannockstown Community, ranging from pursuing becoming a Sustainable Energy Community (you already have solar panels on the roof of the Community School) to using water butts to growing your own food either through allotments or fruit trees.
Does your school have a green flag yet? Is there any provision for recycling in the community?

Brannockstown community is probably already engaged in sustainable activities that might be documented and put forward in next year's submission.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your group has a couple of meetings every month and you work closely with the Council to keep your village free of litter.
Brannockstown Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and other stakeholders have ensured that Brannockstown continues to have a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
Given the nature of your town, you might be interested in joining the with many other Tidy Towns groups in Kildare who you have undertaken to maintain three kilometres of roadside verge in their village and outlying area under the very successful KCC "Green Kilometre" initiative.
Congratulations on your work

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

The residents and community of Brannockstown continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
Many of the homes in Brannockstown area are one-off rural houses. The Grangemore Manor and Grangemore Cottages estates were visited and the homes had very well maintained frontage with colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets. The green space with trees to both estates might provide opportunity for residents to plant some pollinator friendly plants.
The Grangemore Manor green space included a number of freshly planted and staked Prunus Kanzan, a very popular variety of ornamental cherry tree which has a great display in spring.
What looked like the grass cuttings at the Manor were deposited in a wooden open store at the end of the estate, consideration might be given to alternative uses or methods of disposal. Grass clippings are packed with nitrogen and nutrients that could be of benefit rather than being left to rot and decay.
It is suggested that there is sufficient green space in the estates to allow for the setting aside of a no-mow verge or space and the development of some wild flower meadow areas. The benefits of wild meadow spaces are well documented -in time of climate change the meadows offer increased attenuation in flood conditions and also offer cooler ground conditions in time of extreme heat. In terms of biodiversity and environmental impact, bare soil is the worst condition to have and mixed flower meadows are a big improvement on short grass.
Footpaths, kerbs and verges were all in excellent condition.

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

This adjudicator arrived into Brannockstown from the Naas route and left in the direction of Kilcullen. It was both a very pleasant entry into the village and exit from the village with good clear signage at all junctions.

While there is some traffic passing through the town on the day of adjudication the volume of traffic observed passing through was not heavy.

Brannockstown Tidy Towns have laid down excellent flower beds at the village entry signs on the 4 main approaches.

All approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges and well maintained hedgerows.

There was a traffic control ramp outside the school. Some of the road linings are showing their years.

No provision for separate cycleways currently exist in the village.

The general condition of roads and paths was excellent and it was a pleasure to visit Brannockstown.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of Brannockstown and the work the committee has carried out in maintaining and improving your heritage. I look forward to visiting your village again.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.