Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Carbury Village - Cairbre**	Ref:	**1189**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**365**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**27/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	55
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	54
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	35	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	24	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	43
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**348**	**365**

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 to Carbury Village Tidy Towns/Carbury Village Residents Association for your detailed submission. It is fully appreciated that putting an entry together for any community requires a lot of effort and time.
For 2026, Tidy Towns have entered into Category B Village population between 201 and 1000.
For a village with a census recorded population of 172 your current active committee of 10 members and 15-30 volunteers who work regularly on your projects is an incredible record of community activity.

The taking over and opening up of the Dispensary as the community centre offers a focus and a hub for the many activities and events that are organised by various groups in Carbury and a home for essential groups including the ICA and Foroige.

Your submission also includes excellent photographs of the many social events hosted during the year, among the really good events recorded, the photograph of the St. Patrick's Day lighting of your landmark Carbury Castle, thanks to the residents on the hill and the Council, it is a fantastic undertaking, well done. And well done on all of the other social events.
You have highlighted that many organisations, sports clubs, agencies and numerous committed individuals have contributed to the Carbury submission. You have also acknowledged the support of the many local businesses including businesses based in Derrinturn, Edenderry and surrounds during the year.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Carbury village, 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.

The contribution of your local CE worker to the village is also much appreciated.

You have a very strong and proactive communications strategy that includes using a range of traditional and social media, including appointing a dedicated Social Media Officer to your committee, and the delivery of a quarterly newsletter delivered by hand to each household in your area.
The election of a Youth Officer to the committee and the ambition to establish a Youth Council together with the establishment of Carbury Foroige are probably the most significant long-term moves that Carbury Tidy Towns/Carbury Village Residents Association have made in 2025 and 2026.
Your submission included a concise but specific and ambitious action plan for 2026-2028, you are planning for the

future.
The indexed map of Carbury Village submitted with your entry clearly sets out the amazing heritage of your village. This map is also included in your excellent Brief History document.
The success and future of any community depends on the widespread participation of all. You have demonstrated that spirit is very much alive in Carbury.

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

This was my first visit to Carbury and it was an outstanding experience.
The junction at the L1005 Broadford Enfield is marked by an imposing stone barn building with ivy clad gable and bright red door on one side and the very striking Bog Oak sculpture/Carbury place name placed alongside a simple bench set in loose stone surround. The beautiful bench is of spalted beech taken from a local tree that was felled during a storm and the supports to the bench are recycled blocks and the bench and the oar sculpture are treated with linseed oil every year by the Tidy Towns. The high standard set here was carried out all the way through Carbury to the Dispensary/Community Centre at the southern end of the village and the landmark Carbury Castle and Motte at the other end.
The views from the old graveyard at the Carbury Castle over the surrounding countryside are absolutely well worth the effort, perhaps it was a very good day of inspection but the views were stunning. It is no surprise that you have tried to put a conservation plan in place for this historic centre and congratulations on securing funding under the Community Monuments Fund after a number of years of trying, following up by the appointment of a conservation architect. We look forward to hearing positive updates in the future.
Last year's adjudication very positively detailed your work on the new community centre and yet again you have improved this key facility by installing a pedestrian entrance and providing wheelchair access and also providing appropriate gym equipment - yet another example of your ambition on increasing community participation. The installation of a wheelchair accessible picnic bench reinforces your intention for universal access.
Carbury has an incredible architectural heritage and the use of your brilliant Replica Phone Box as the distribution point for your excellent local history booklet is a very fitting first use. The phone box and surrounds looked very authentic - a great initiative.
The Carbury Village noticeboards, including the heritage board are very well done and add to the visitor experience. Unfortunately the proposed history board at Carbury Hill was not seen on the day of adjudication but it will be another great addition to the village when completed.
The many highlights of the visit to Carbury include the very prominent and well presented Castle Inn in the village centre, the Church of Ireland Church and graveyard, the excellent Carbury House with it's very unusual curved wall, the white-washed Fairyhill Cottage formerly the RIC barracks - it is incredible that there are so many beautifully maintained historic buildings in one village.
Your street furniture is excellent from your water pump complete with it's own poetry piece to your lamb sculptures, which look too delicate to be bike racks, to your unique water feature. Your attention to your paving and surrounds and stone walls and fencing is also very apparent.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

A visit to Carbury confirms that you have many green spaces from the wildflower meadow at the road junction throughout your village that have been supplemented by your planters and tree planting that have been planted and maintained to a high standard by your very dedicated team of volunteers.
You have so many green spaces and excellent planted areas that it is impossible to mention them all but the following items are noted as being representative of all the best that Carbury village has to offer.
The planted area to the gable of the stone barn at the road junction was in full flower display on the date of inspection. Similarly the planting around the new phone box were very impressive. The hedge surround to the water pump is well cared for and the geranium and petuna selections in the bucket and planter again were excellent.
The constant need to water, thin out and and weed around is key to the ongoing presentation of your green spaces and landscaping.
You have brought some colour to the town by having numerous planters placed at key positions. The planters and window boxes throughout the village are very well done, and the wall mounted coir planters with irrigation feeds to the stone wall were excellent. The hanging baskets to the lamp posts and houses were also noted. As mentioned previously the use of perennials is always encouraged.
Your photographs of your springtime daffodil planting show how much work you have put into your community.
Finally you have highlighted your re-purposing of the hollowed out beech tree trunk as a Fairy House which looked to be as much fun to put together as the fun it will give the many visitors that will surely turn up to see it.

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.
From your plans for a Youth Council and the work of Foroige, Carbury Village has recognised that the future will be determined by the young. Your range of projects in co-ordination with the pre-school throughout the year is inspiring. From seed harvesting to compost building to bird spotting and identification the essential lessons and future foundations are being passed on.
Throughout your village your connection with nature and biodiversity is clear, from the bug hotel on the stone wall at the community centre to the wildlife garden at the carpark opposite the Church of Ireland Carbury is a wonderful place to be a pollinator.
You have mentioned that you have introduced four new dedicated wildflower planting areas in the village. It would have helped the adjudicator if the locations of these planting areas had been identified in the submission.

Given the number scope and location of your various planted areas the ongoing maintenance of your projects is as important as the introduction of new projects and your have kept up your rigorous schedule - special word of acknowledgement for the work at the biodiversity bed and hedgehog village.
You have also included your brilliantly painted utility boxes under the Nature and Biodiversity category - well done to your local artist - the transition from the artist's original renderings included in your submission to the actual reality is incredible . In addition to the photos included in your submission, the 2 x 2 pollinating bees at work at the Telephone Box are wonderful.
Finally you have properly recognised that the stone walls which are an essential feature of your village are indeed habitats for a lot of life - thank you for taking such good care of your village.
It is hoped that you will continue to carry out works under your Biodiversity Action Plan commenced in 2020 under the National Biodiversity Initiative as set out in your community action plan for 2026-2028

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.
Carbury Tidy Towns have been very active in encouraging community members to make their area more sustainable by their wide range of projects and programmes.
This adjudicator has visited many community allotment gardens where a wide range of work is under way but the visit to Carbury Community Garden was the first visit where visitors were invited to take home some very healthy looking potatoes and excellent beets - this garden is a serious attempt at introducing the concept of food security and reduced air miles to the community. In addition the no dig approach delivers many environmental benefits, including helping earthworms do their essential work in keeping soil healthy. Your homegrown vegetable notice on your planter says it all. Your "trespassers will be composted" warning was also noticed.
Energy, water and transport are the three main themes under which savings can be made.
Generating and using more power from clean, renewable sources like offshore wind and solar panels is one of the core actions needed to attain the reduction in national emissions substantial to meet EU and Irish legislation. Your hosting of an SEAI Warmer Homes workshop in the Community Centre at the end of 2025 is recognition that you are engaged in the drive to reduce our collective carbon footprint.
From your re-use of marquees, chairs and most particularly delph instead of disposable cups to your very effective water storage and harvesting to your book library at the community centre to your using local charity shops to procure your essentials to your decision to share what you have with the wider community - this is a real circular economy model in action.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Carbury Tidy Towns volunteers have ensured that the village and surrounds has a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited in Carbury.
You have especially highlighted the work of your CE worker who completes a regular clean up of the village.
Along with many other Tidy Towns groups, Carbury Village Tidy Towns/Carbury Village Residents Association have undertaken to assist and co-ordinate with Kildare County Council the cleaning up of roads and surrounds outside the village boundaries Kilometre" initiative. Judging by the photographs included with your submission and your collection of full bags waiting for collection by the Council you have completed some very good work.
Your excellent communication of your detailed 2026 Maintenance Schedule to the whole community allows everybody to be part of your communal effort, especially those who for one reason or another are not able to take part in the group organised activities.
Your extensive painting and maintenance programme including power washing your cobblelock paving have all contributed to the excellent appearance of Carbury.
Congratulations on your work

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

The residents and community of Carbury continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
The works carried out to the former RIC barracks have been excellent and in keeping with the high standards set in the village. As the previous adjudicator noted this is a very prominent building in the village and needs to be maintained.
A number of houses and gardens caught the eye during the adjudicators visit to your village, including the yellow house with the mushroom and toadstool garden and fantastic garden to the verge including the slow down for snails sign, an amazing rainbow of colour on to the road, and also the Teacher's Cottage and adjacent stable building with six red doors, all completed off with a pumpkin patch.
The condition of the Dispensary Community Centre and garden has to be complimented, hopefully the neighbouring single storey building is properly maintained.
The playground next to the Community Centre was being fully enjoyed by a number of families on the day of the visit.

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

As mentioned above, the main junction and the main approach road into Carbury is excellent, with clear signage and markings and very well maintained. There is very good hard and soft landscaping throughout the village which softens the look of the area.

There is an excellent path with kerb on one side of the main approach road for pedestrian traffic, there is no

separate provision for cycling in the village, but given the relatively low volume of traffic with no significant traffic the village remains relatively safe for cyclists. Again given the relatively low volume of traffic there appears to be no traffic calming measures in place.

The signage for Carbury's inclusion in the North Kildare Tourist Route is clear and is improved by good flower planting at the base.

A lot of fantastic work has been carried out by the Carbury community in keeping the kerbs, paths and cobblock paving clear of weeds. All approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges and well maintained hedgerows, fencing and boundary walls.

The surface of the car-park at the Church of Ireland is excellent and appears to be adequate for the village's needs.

The general condition of roads and paths in Carbury was excellent.

Concluding Remarks:

Having seen your 2026 submission and visited Carbury Village it is no surprise that you have consistently increased your score year on year since your original entry in 2015 - congratulations on maintaining your record of yet another higher score.

This adjudicator was very impressed with the presentation of your village and the work the whole community has carried out.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.