Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Celbridge - Cill Droichid**	Ref:	**338**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**400**
Category:	**G**	Date(s):	**01/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	50	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	50	51
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	29	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	45	47
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	46	47
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**389**	**400**

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.

While I have been an occasional visitor to Celbridge and I am familiar with the town over many years, this was my first visit to Celbridge acting as the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026.

You have entered into the Tidy Towns competition as a large urban centre, with a population between 15,001 and 20,000. This particular Category G is especially competitive and of a high standard in Kildare.

Your detailed and complete entry opens with a great photograph of some of your group posing in a team photograph, well done to all.
Your close association with Celbridge Community Council is a vital part of your success. Your active participation in the Know Your Community event is evidence of you having the capacity to reach out to potential volunteers. Celbridge has been an active participant in the National Tidy Towns Competition for an incredible 33 years, a lot of changes have taken place over that time, but the commitment to work for Celbridge remains.

Given the large urban centre status and an expanding resident population of over 20,000 together with the particular challenges of being a commuter town with a significant historical heritage to protect and nurture you need to have committed experienced resources in place to make a meaningful impact.

Your 11 active committee members and a very impressive group of 49 volunteers work on your projects. Thank you to your retiring committee members who have rendered some service and also a big welcome to your 4 new committee members, it sounds as if you have managed to maintain an experienced core while bringing new energy and ideas to your group, the hallmark of any successful organisation.

In addition to the Community Council, you have highlighted the many agencies, local businesses, schools, resident associations, and other organisations who have contributed to the work of the Tidy Towns during the year. Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare including Celbridge 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.

Amongst the many businesses who have supported your work, the contribution of the following is noted: The Plant Collector Garden Centre, Cove & Co., Choy Chinese Restaurant, The Bridge House, and the corporate volunteering

programme of Veolia Industries.

The continued input of all of the schools, pupils, Transition Year students, teachers, mentors and parents is critical to the future success of Celbridge as a good place to live. Your support of students undertaking the Gaisce programme or the Dermot Earley leadership programme is an investment in our future that will yield great dividends.. Well done.

Your presentation of your methods of communication covers all possibilities and is also very well set out. Linking in on Facebook with the popular Celbridge Information page is typical of getting your message out.

Thank you for your excellent submission and attached map, index link to locate your various projects.

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

Celbridge is centred on the Liffey bridge connecting the R403 arriving from the M4 and motorway running through the town towards Clane, and the R405 from Maynooth heading across the county line to Newcastle and Rathcoole in Dublin. The R449 Shackleton Road offers an alternative route around the town, linking the Clane and Maynoott roads. There is a significant amount of traffic passing through the town and the bridge is a pinch point.
The town has many famous landmarks, most notably the Castletown House and estate which is accessible from the town by walking and is open to the public. There is a fine Church of Ireland beside the pillars leading to the Castletownn avenue. There is also a prominent St. Patrick's Catholic Church on the other side of the main street.
The main street is an interesting mix of houses, retail units, pubs, restaurants, take-aways and coffee shops, most of the properties in use. Many of the buildings are part of the town's Georgian heritage.
The fine Celbridge Abbey building is also located close to the town with it's back to the river Liffey. The Abbey car-park is currently closed for use but hopefully it will come back into use soon.
The main street in Celbridge hosts a statue of Arthur Guinness and also has a number of information boards and heritage trail signs.
Away from the main street there is a fine modern library building on St. Patrick's Park, and there is also the graveyard/museum on the wonderfully named Tea Lane.
The 2 main out-of-town shopping centres are located on the Dublin Road before the bridge, and at the R445/R449 intersection.
Many of the town's residents live in housing estates on the outskirts of the town and the schools and the GAA club, athletics club, soccer club and tennis club are similarly away from the centre.
Apart from it's significant work on planting and maintaining the flowers and planters in the town, the work of the Tidy Towns group is broad ranging and diverse and includes such essential elements as advocacy for undergrounding of overhead lines, and ensuring that signage, lights and public seating are all of good standard.
You have also noted in your submission that you are currently working to establish a new committee to continue the maintenance and protection of the Donaghcumper Church ruins. That would certainly be a major contribution to the great legacy of the town.
Celbridge is a vibrant town with a great energy.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Celbridge has many green spaces which have been developed, planted, maintained and very well looked after by the Tidy Towns group and the wider community.
Your flagship project for this year is the excellent Shackleton Road planted area opposite the new development at Grattan Park, this is a very attractive corner complete with bug hotel and superb dwarf wattle fence dividing the area from the public path, thanks to all who made their contribution here, including the Mens Shed, the local garden centre, local gardeners, and especially the school pupils and teachers who have made their contribution.
Also worthy of very positive mention is the planted area bounded by railway sleepers in the grass verge at the Clane Road/Shackleton Road intersection, a landmark entrance point to the town, again an excellent use of green space with good planting.
Your submission also notes the excellent planting and maintenance work carried out at the Grotto, the Workhouse Graveyard and at Tea Lane. Your work included the removal of ivy from graveyard walls where the ivy might cause damage.
As mentioned above, you have also brought some colour to the town by having numerous planters placed at key positions, those placed on the bridge being the most obvious example, the use of perennials is always encouraged.
The advice of the 2025 adjudication report to use ground planting in preference to planters is repeated.
In all of your planting activities throughout Celbridge, you have chosen your flowers for colour, and also critically for their roles as pollinators, well done
Dunaghcumper Cemetery at the Dublin Road was also well maintained.
Your excellent and sustained work in keeping all the green spaces distributed through your town so well maintained and attractive for all is very much appreciated.

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 reference your Biodiversity Action Plan which informs your actions in relation to protecting your local ecosystems. Your plan was developed in 2021 with the help of Kildare County Council and was intended for 2021 to 2025. There is little doubt that you have achieved many of the objectives and built up your resources and capacities in this area. Nevertheless it might now be time to review and update your plan so as to highlight the

success stories and also to highlight some new issues or opportunities that might have arisen in the meantime.
As with your 2021 document, Kildare County Council are anxious to work with Tidy Towns communities in driving forward their own Draft Biodiversity Action Plan for 2026-2031. The council- appointed Biodiversity Officer is always ready to advise and assist.
You have identified water quality in the tributary streams feeding the Liffey as a concern for Celbridge. There are a number of citizen science programmes currently in operation, and your assistance in the collection of water samples could well provide accurate and current data and information relating to water quality.
Your promotion of sustainable gardening and no-mow May is also to be welcomed. Special word of praise for the Celbridge Library who have assisted in the seed sharing initiatives, that is a great idea.
In addition to keeping your joint project with BirdWatch Ireland and seeking and advocating biodiversity opportunities you have a lot of work on your plate.
The honeysuckle wall planting at St. Wolstans appeared to be thriving, it will be magnificent when it matures.
The undoubted highlight for this adjudicator's visit to Celbridge was locating and seeing the Abbey Farm Estate pocket forest, which was organised and funded by Tidy Towns in partnership with the Abbey Farm Residents Association. The trees and surrounding grasses and plant life were in good condition, and it is a great location so close to the Liffey and also being part of the extensive parklands at Abbey Farm. The individual tree planting separate from the pocket forest were also noted, trees were well staked and supported and again appeared to be thriving. It might be the case in some parts of Celbridge that the tree stakes are no longer necessary and can be removed.
You have also been pro-active in encouraging developers to increase the hedgerows and tree cover in new estates, for example the line of birch trees planted along the entrance avenue to the new development at Grattan Park adds to the overall quality of life for all.

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.
For 2026 you have also identified a number of local initiatives relating to water, energy, and transport. You have also focussed on possibility of reducing the use of plastic, and also the very exciting prospect of securing some of the 80 acres of land at Donaghcomper recently acquired by Kildare County for use as community allotments.
Water is often undervalued and taken for granted. Your use of timed irrigation for the planters at the bridge is a perfect example of keeping waste to a minimum and also the promotion of water butts throughout Celbridge is a very effective method of flood mitigation and using grey water where appropriate.
Celbridge Tidy Towns supports local energy awareness events and is actively exploring opportunities for Celbridge to further develop as a Sustainable Energy Community.
Tidy Towns very active involvement with the local Climate Hub group is also very important. The Climate Hub web-site is an especially informative resource for Celbridge and beyond, full marks to those involved in setting this up and maintaining it. It's pages on Celbridge traffic are, for example, very informative. The map showing tree types and photographs of trees in the Castletown estate can only generate wider interest in our environment, it would be a significant piece of work if all the trees in Celbridge were mapped. This collaboration is an excellent piece of work in progress, with great potential.
As with other communities Celbridge has had a positive experience of the Re-Turn campaign with a significant reduction in littering of plastic bottles and cans.
Finally, congratulations to the hard-working pupils and teachers of Scoil Mochua for their community garden - growing our own fruit and vegetables contributes to our food security and sustainable living, cutting down on imports and air miles,. And the self-grown produce always tastes better than the alternatives!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thank you for taking action on foot of the 2025 adjudicator's comment regarding redundant signage at a hotel, this is just a small example of your great energy, and pro-active approach in ensuring that Celbridge and surrounds are presented as a tidy litter free zone.
You have taken a structure approach to the task, scheduling and co-ordinating work loads, and very importantly mapping and recording what has been done.
Your brilliantly named SWAT Street Waste Alert Team is the rapid response unit of the Celbridge Tidy Towns, again documenting and logging what is going on - well done to all the volunteers who have rolled up their sleeves.
Judging by the details and photographs of your submission your group is an ideal mix of youth and experience, gender balanced and most importantly it looked like you were enjoying yourselves - there has to be some fun as well.
Both of Celbridge's recycling stations at the Dublin Road and the Maynooth Road were in good order and tidy on the day of adjudication. All bins seen were available for use and appeared to be emptied regularly.
There was some minor littering around the town, the car-park at the rear of the Village Inn could benefit from a tidy-up as could the redundant Abbey car-park, but generally the town and estates of Celbridge had a good standard of litter control.
Congratulations on your work

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

Your submission notes that the Celbridge has over 60 housing estates, which has to be one of the leading Tidy Towns Communities in terms of estate numbers.
It goes without saying that this adjudicator visited a good number of but still only a representative sample of your residential streets.

Without exception all areas visited showed that the residents and communities of Celbridge continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
The small cul-de-sac at Little Grove was typical of the estates visited, most of the homes had very well maintained frontage with colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets. The green space with trees at the entrance to the estate was planted some pollinator friendly plants.
Similarly the houses and spaces lining and off St. Raphael's Avenue were in good condition and well maintained, verges cut, and generally well presented, estates and street names generally clearly visible.
You have provided details of your own Tidy Estates scheme complete with independent adjudicator and detailed report and media coverage, well done to all participants, the competition and the energy generated has contributed maintaining and improvising the quality of the lived environment in Celbridge.
Special word of mention to the winners of your commercial premises competition, well done to the Bridge House and to Walsh's Pharmacy, and indeed to all of the businesses in the town who took part in ensuring that Celbridge remains a good place to do business.

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

Given it's location and size it is not surprising that Celbridge has a number of major approach roads and also has the Hazelhatch Railway Station relatively close all ensuring that the entrances to the town are in constant use.

This adjudicator arrived into Celbridge from Clane by the R403 route. There were roadworks under way and there was a stop-go operation in place. Nevertheless it was a very pleasant entry into the town with good clear signage at all junctions and roundabouts. The excellent planting and bench at the Shackleton Road have already been noted.

As you are aware the construction traffic and ongoing development does cause some disruption but despite these challenges the approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges and well maintained hedgerows.

Given it's historical legacy Celbridge is not particularly cycle-friendly on it's older main roads, and the bridge pinch point with the Dublin Road, the R405 coming from the railway station and the tennis club and the Newtown Road all coming together offers a serious challenge to motorists and particularly the heroic bus-drivers who daily navigate the challenge.

Well done to Tidy Towns on your working with the Council to continue the maintenance at the Mill Wheel roundabout.

Concluding Remarks:

As mentioned previously, this 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.

Celbridge is a super example of how a thriving community can rise to the challenge of growing while also maintaining it's proud historical legacy and also taking care of and nurturing it's natural environment.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.