Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Clane - Claonadh**	Ref:	**368**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**401**
Category:	**E**	Date(s):	**01/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	61	62
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	56	57
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	49	50
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	27	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	44	47
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	44
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**391**	**401**

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 was my first visit to Clane acting as the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026 . Thank you for preparing and submitting your detailed and comprehensive entry on behalf of Clane.

You have entered the Large Town Catergory E for towns with a population of between 5001 and 10000.

Your submission included a detailed 41 page document, complete with photographs and links, separately 2 maps of the surrounds and the village, index linked to your various projects, and a separate comprehensive 3 year plan commencing in 2026 outlining future priority actions and long-term initiatives beyond routine annual maintenance.

Congratulations on your award of a second gold medal in 2025, the first having been received in 2024, you have kept up the high standard required in 2026. You have been a participant in the National Tidy Towns competition since 1973, over 50 years of continued commitment.

In addition to entering Clane into the National Tidy Towns competition, the Tidy Towns committee also runs an annual Estates Competition and Best Presented Premises Competition. Clane Tidy Towns also runs the popular Wild About Clane projects and events.
Your 14 very active committee members and a very impressive core group of 50 plus volunteers work on your projects.

As a constituent member of Clane Community Council, which supports interaction with many other community wide ranging organisations including residents associations and sports clubs. You also work alongside the local schools, the KARE community, and local businesses.
Your submission also identifies a number of agencises and volunteer groups working in the areas of environmental and wildlife protection.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare including Clane 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.

In terms of communication your Clane Information Notice Board is very prominent outside of the church on Main Street, you also use traditional and social media to get your news out, including the use of local radio, and the

community newsletter.

Clane Tidy Towns are pro-active in seeking the input and energy of the younger community, for example by encouraging schools to partake in the national Green Flags programme.

Your engagement with the many Residents Associations and the Education Centres in the town together with the wide range of other voluntary groups is essential to working effectively in a lively town the size of Clane.

The Town Centre First programme being currently rolled out nationwide is a great opportunity for Clane to avail of additional resources and skills to significantly help the town in many ways and address some of the issues impacting on towns. The involvement of the Tidy Towns Committee into the preparation of the Town Centre First Plan is very much welcome.

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

The R407 road between Kilcock and Sallins acts as the main street for Clane intersecting with the R403 between Celbridge and Prosperous.
Evidence of the town's history and central importance in Kildare remains visible today in the village even if it is positioned between the M4 and M7 motorways, and is a rapidly expanding commuter town.
While many of the town's residents live on the outskirts of the village, and the schools and the GAA club are similarly away from the centre, Clane is very fortunate in that the landmark Abbey Hall and Garden of Rememberance located in the centre of the town are in the ownership of the Community Council, the Clane Wall of Fame provides a very interesting review of the many extraordinary figures featuring in the history of the town, well done to the many who have worked on this key project over the years, including the Clane Senior Hurlers who appear to have got in some useful exercise.
The Franciscan Friary founded in 1258 and Abbey Cemetery are on the same side of the road, again in excellent condition and well looked after and maintained. At the other end of the town is the Clane 1798 Memorial, also part of Clane's Heritage Trail, which is very well signed throughout the town.
The town cente is an interesting mix of houses, properties, buildings, retail and businesses and open spaces including the playground. There are a number of roundabouts, a large hotel and some shopping centres. The opening of a relief road offers some reduction in through traffic but the town remains busy with on -street parking.
It is encouraging also to see that a number of properties in the area of the town are currently being refurbished and upgraded.
Amongst many highlights, some in particular were noted including the Church of St. Patrick and St. Brigid and grounds set back from the main street, the sign in the Cló Gaelach Gaelic Script for the original St. Brigid's National School which operated from 1830 to 1930, and the very fine 2-storey Georgian Presbytery house complete with up and down sash windows adjacent to the Abbey Hall. Many of the shopfronts were well maintained and eye-cathcing including the Clane Parish Shop and adjoining and matching Parish Centre and the Wild Poppy well being emporium. These are a random selection from a very fine town.
The Alexandra Bridge is another landmark worth seeing even if it is hazardous for pedestrians.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The presence of the many green spaces and Liffy walk offer some welcome respite from the traffic to the visitor and shopper to the town, many within easy walking distance of the town centre.
Your current entry highlights the Liffey Linear Park as one of the town's great green space, it has much to offer in terms of trees, planting, walks and birdlife and wildlife all present alongside one of Ireland's great flowing rivers.
The wild about Clane signboard offers much useful information regarding the plants and insects to be spotted.
The Abbey Garden of Rememberance has previously been mentioned and is a very attractive park relatively close to the centre. The adjacent green space at the Fr. John Sullivan Memorial was also maintained.
The adjudicator also noted good use of spaces and planting at the Clane Stream Park and adjacent playground, and also very good colouful planting at some of the roundabouts.
Your submission also illustrates the numerous locations of tree planting in Clane and surrounds over a period of time. There is an increased awareness of the benefits of trees for communities, for example trees offer even a better ground cooling than wild meadows, the next best cooler, often by a significant amount. Trees alongside rivers and streams in particular help keep the waters cool and protect the species living in the water. Kildare County Council partners with Tidy Towns committees, community groups and residents' associations to supply saplings and fund tree-planting initiatives across the county, which is a highly recommended initiative.
Where ground planting is not possible you have used planters and containers to very good effect and you have also taken into consideration to need to have planting for all seasons and not just the summer flowering season, your Tidy Towns group has good experience and knowledge built up over the years.
Thank you for the work in keeping all the green spaces distributed through your town so well maintained and attractive for all.

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.
The fact that Clane Tidy Towns had drawn up the Clane Biodiversity Action Plan, which allows the identification of your priorities relating to the protection of nature and promotion of biodiversity in your area.
Given it's strategic location, Clane is ideally placed to have great experienc of nature on it's doorstep. It is possible that it was missed on the adjudicator's visit to the GAA Club but there was previous mention in 2025 of a green

initiative in the club grounds, was that ever progressed?
In partnership with the Clane Trout and Salmon Anglers Association, Tidy Towns have drawn up a Habitat Management plan and worked on the ecological management of the River Liffey and Village Stream.
Your work alongside others in controlling invasive species, and in particular, managing Himalayan Balsam, is critical. This plant thrives along riverbanks and damp ground, where it grows up to 3 meters tall, crowds out native vegetation, and increases bank erosion.
Clane Tidy Towns promotes the use of herbicide-free weed control where possible.
The benefits of tree cover has already been noted, Clane Tidy Towns are proactive in caring for and maintaining your current tree stock as well as your native hedgerows.
You have promoted reduced mowing practices and advanced wildflower meadows. Tidy Towns has also been very active in promoting increased awareness and educatation of biodiversity issues. Your members have also contributed to citizen science programmes which provides the necessary data and information to allow the development of the appropriate policies.

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.
Firstly, big congratulations to Clane Tidy Town's St. Patrick's Day float which highlighted the importance of sustainability winning the first prize, which looked like a very big gold medal. Well done to all who took part, it looked like great fun, and most importantly you are getting the message out to all that we have to think about how we live.
In addition to your education and communication role, Clane Tidy Towns have taken some tangible actions to promote sustainable practices, moving from petrol powered tools to the electric alternative being one such action.
Your provision of leaf cages to the Stream Park is another example of a circular approach - let nothing go to waste. Other Tidy Towns would be interested in seeing how practice this has worked for Clane
In relation to your promotion of active travel it was encouraging to see some provision for cycling paths to the new schools and there appeared to be significant provision for covered bike parking. The many benefits of regular cycling for young adults are well researched and apart from the obvious health benefits, include increased confidence and a higher awareness of road safety issues, which will not be gained by sitting in the back of a car.
Your promotion of Safe Routes and also engagement with the schools and the Green Flag programme are also very much welcomed.
The planters and works at the side of Scoil Phadraig were noted, from a distance the plants looked in excellent shape, and it was obvious that some areas had been recently tilled and were getting ready for future planting.
Hopefully next year's submission will be able to provide an update on the schools drive for food security and a more sustainable living. Well done to the pupils, teachers and mentors .
Electric charging points for cars also seemed to be in place at the school car-parking areas.
Your biodiversity plan also indicated that you would be trying to implement a plan to reduce disposal cup use. It is fully appreciated that as you have correctly said that the best sustainability measures are applied consistently and supported by a wide range of community stakeholders, rather than relying on short-term or volunteer-only initiatives - the fact that Ireland got through over 200 million disposable cups last year, which ended up in landfill. Any local measures to reduce that volume of waste by even a small amount would be very welcome.
In addition to reducing waste in your regular activities you are making efforts to improve rainwater harvesting. Your move towards selection of drought-tolerant planet species, chosen to suit site conditions and limit watering requirements, sounds very timely - it would have been very interesting to hear some more details of that initiative.
Finally best wishes for your St. Patrick's Day float next - go for gold.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your initiation of a village wide deep-clean at the start of the year set the tone for the rest of the year, that is a great starting point and the fact that there was wide community involvement is very encouraging. The photographs included in your submission are evidence of a very good day's work.
The before and after photographs of your clean up of utilities cabinets illustrate the change for the better that is made by your group's efforts. Well done on that work as well. Equally telling are the before and after photographs of your work alongside the Clane Trout and Salmon Anglers Association on cleaning up the river and water courses in the town.
You have noted that the current in-shop recycling scheme is proving effective in reducing plastic bottle and can littering - this reflects the nationwide pattern, and is cause for celebration.
The recycling area at the GAA Club was clear of any waste or rubbish.
Clane Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council have ensured that Clane and in particular the areas around the Main Street has a good standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
The only unfortunate exception noted to this good standard was some evidence of anti-social behaviour and litter and a shopping trolley dumped beside the bench at the Alexandra Bridge at the Liffey Park. This dumping stood out because it was very much the exception to the rule in Clane and surrounds.
Congratulations on your work

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

As a rapidly developing commuter town it is critical that Clane Tidy Towns offers guidance and assistance to the many estates which now form part of the Clane Community. Your town maps indicate a number of new housing estates currently under construction.

Your promotion of the outstanding estates award is a great idea, well done to Abbey Park on their 2025 success. Some elements of friendly competition can generate great energy in a community. You have included the Competition Results pack and it is a very professional presentation. The promotion of the Estate Mini-Projects scheme is very welcome, and your adjudication report and judging guidelines are clear, well detailed and concise. The residents and community of many of the estates continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
Even though not mentioned in your 2025 Outstanding Awards report, An Crocan was 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 space with trees to the front of the estate were well maintained, and the street name entrance sign was clear with some decorative planting surround.
It is apparent tha the residents' associations continue to organise estate clean ups and maintenance days for their own estates.
Given such good feeling and pride of place, it is reasonable to hope that the Tidy Towns promotion of biodiversity friendly practices, through the Award Winning Estates Competition, will be well received by the residents associations. Thank your for putting sustainability and wildlife front and centre of your judging guideline for the competition.
You have scored very well again in this category this year.

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

The placing of the updated Tidy Towns Medal signage has been installed on the Celbridge Road and Kilcock Road, thank you.

Clane does have a constant flow of traffic through the town from many directions.

As mentioned previously, the introduction of safer pedestrian and cycling into the town has been a very positive development for all including pedestrians and traffic.

Speed control measures including ramps, lights and pedestrian crossings are very welcome, as is the availability of public transport to and from the town.

There appeared to be adequate provision for bike park and some provision for disabled parking.

In general signage is good, sufficient and clear. However it might be worthwhile to check if some of the heritage finger posts in the town and particularly at the Crochan/Clane Relief Road roundabout are pointing in the right direction.

Roundabouts generally are well cared for and provide good entrances to the town.

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

The general condition of roads and paths was excellent and it was a pleasure to walk around Clane

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of your town and the work the committee has carried out. It is fully appreciated that maintaining and improving developing towns presents special and unique challenges. Best of luck with your future plans - you have a great legacy to be proud of.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.