Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Cutbush - An Tom Gearrtha**	Ref:	**2297**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**251**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**15/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	30	32
Streetscape & Public Places	80	33	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	28	29
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	25	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	25	26
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**240**	**251**

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 Cutbush.
For 2026, Cutbush Tidy Towns have entered into Category B Village population between 201 and 1000.
Your 4 active committee members with assigned roles, including a shared chair, and a very impressive group of 30 plus volunteers work regularly on your projects.

This is your second year taking part in the national Tidy Towns competition, congratulations and thank you for coming back to the competition, it is fully appreciated that it is not easy to put together a team and a submission for any community, well done.

It is very encouraging to hear that you feel that your participation in the competition has resulted in Cutbush having better working relationship with the Council for the overall good of the Cutbush community.
Thank you for taking notice of the previous adjudicator's report and comments.
Your current submission of 18 pages remains a substantial piece of work which responds to all the categories and which is well detailed. You have made use of very good thumbnail photographs and excellent graphics.
You have also attached your 2026 annotated Town Map.
You have highlighted that many organisations, agencies and businessed and numerous committed individuals have contributed to the Cutbash 2026 submission by their support during the past year.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Cutbush 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.

Your submission includes a 3-5 year plan for your future - it is good, attainable without being overly ambitious, and it might be useful to set down timelines for delivery of each of the aims. Regular review will probably indicate which activities have commenced, or are in progress or are hopefully completed. The reviews might also identify possibly new activities to be added to your updated plan.

Finally, well done on your Christmas Tree event - we hope that it will become a regular part of your future years.

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

Cutbush is a rural townland, typical ribbon development centered on the local route L7030 where it intersects with the Cut Bush Road and School Lane. It is situated in the parish of Ballysax which led to some confusion on my part.
Your consultation with the Council's Heritage Officer has uncovered some very interesting information regarding your built heritage, this is a step that many Tidy Towns groups fail to take, well done.
The main landmark buildings in the village are the local and modern St. Brigid's National School set back in good grounds fronting onto School Lane, and the local Bush Bar, set in a fine 2-storey terraced building, situated at the corner of the main road and the Cut Bush Road, which has outdoor seating facilities in place. There was also a defibrillator prominently displayed in case of emergency, hopefully never to be needed.
The original school house building which is across the main road from the current school has now been incorporated into a modern residence.
If possible it would be of great interest to include some current photographs of those previous school houses and the pump in your next submission.
There was some roadworks underway on the day of the adjudication and the roads and adjacent paths, kerbs, and verges all appeared to be in good condition.
Well done to the committee and large number of volunteers who make it all possible.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Well done on sourcing Caring for Your Environment funding for your planting programme and more importantly securing the co-operation of the private landholders in working alongside Tidy Towns in bringing new life to your green spaces.
You have rightly recognised the necessity to sow at the right time of the year, and the need to select the right plants for the right soil types.
The constant need to water, thin out and and weed around is also key to the ongoing presentation of your green spaces and landscaping.
Seeking expert advice and guidance is always recommended where possible and is a very positive step. You might be helped to choose your flowers for colour, and also critically for their roles as pollinators, and also take into account all 4 seasons of the year in your planting and maintenance programme.
On the day of adjudication the green space at the school corner road junction across from the large planters was in good colour, with excellent ground cover, and mulching in place.
Similarly the large planters beside the decorative bike stands were also in very good condition. The preference is to use ground cover wherever possible, it is suggested that some of the verges in the village might offer opportunity.
The local business has also brought some colour to the town by having numerous hanging baskets and planters placed at key positions, as mentioned previously the use of perennials is always encouraged.
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.
Given your great location and setting your village has many opportunities to explore and further develop the nature and biodiversity of Cut Bush.
It is also very important to enjoy and take satisfaction and humor from your efforts. For this adjudicator, one of the most humorous interventions seen anywhere is the Planning Approval Notice from the Bug Hotel Department at Kildare County Council at the Bug Hotel acoss from the school entrance. Top marks for compliance!
Water is the starting point for all of nature, it keeps us alive and yet it is often undervalued and is very much taken for granted.
Your engagement with the Lower Bann Navigation System citizen science programme and your collection of Clorane Brook water sampling sets at Cut Bush will provide accurate and current data and information relating to water quality.
Finally the presence of a historic wildflower meadow with an interested owner is such an opportunity on many fronts. Leaving aside the obviously very interesting history of the meadow, the actual current flora and fauna and birdlife might well have established their own micro eco-system - it would be so interesting to find out more, and to see for example if the native wildflower seeds could be used to expand wildflower meadows elsewhere in your village.

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.
As last year's adjudicator noted, it was especially pleasing that St. Brigid's National School proudly proclaims it's 5 Green Flags over it's front door, very prominently displayed, well done to the students, this is always a student-led programme but also well done to the teaching staff, parents and mentors who have all supported this journey. In addition to being on Safe Routes, and having bike parking facilities, it was also noted that the school has an application in for an Air Source Heat Pump, an example of sustainability in the community.
Your use of LED lighting for your Christmas tree is a perfect example of another move towards better alternatives - well done. Your move towards becoming a sustainable energy community with the help of SEAI will also lead to many benefits over the long term.
You have also identified the locally grown produce either by producers or by homeowners in the neighbourhood. Hopefully next year's Cut Bush report will be able to report progress on the hiring of apple presses and the

anticipated outcome. The organic and health food sectors are becoming increasingly important in our economy. Any move towards eliminating unnecessary air miles, transport costs and chemicals on our food is much applauded and is very welcome on the journey to food security and it also tastes better.
It is very unfortunate that you currently do not have access to public transport, hopefully organised campaigning might yield results sooner than anticipated. It is the common experience nationwide that the local link programme is much improved over the last number of years, and there is continued investment and interest in the promotion of public transport across all communities.
You might bear in mind that the Sustainability category is very wide ranging - your full community including the school, local businesses, farms, growers, and homes might look at other possibilities for consideration and inclusion.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Cut Bush Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and other stakeholders have ensured that Cut Bush continues to have a very good standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
The only comment to be noted with regard to this high standard was some evidence of a small disposal of grass and leaf and tree cuttings in one of the estates, perhaps some advice might be sought as to how best to manage this waste - possibly to be reused as compost, it is always rich in nitrogen.
You might also wish to consider along with many other Tidy Towns groups, taking part in the you have undertakend to very successful KCC “Green Kilometre” initiative, where local tidy towns maintain three kilometres of roadside verge outside their village or town. Unfortunately litter does not recognise boundaries. However there was no evidence of fly tipping or dumping in your townland - it is possible that the work is already being done.
Congratulations on your work

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

The residents and community of Cut Bush maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level. Dun Cuilin was typical of the estates visited, excellent stone-fronted walls, well maintained trees lining the entrance avenue, 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 side of the estate might provide opportunity for residents to plant some pollinator friendly plants.
To take one example but by no means the only example the planting to the stone planters at Ballyfair Lodge were excellent, proving very attractive to the birds and bees.
Excellent work also from the gardeners of Clorane Brook, with the planting of wall climbing roses to the sun-facing wall at one end of the estate, and also leaving a portion of wild meadow in their green space. One of the estate namestones could be touched up to match the other end of the estate.
You have provided details of the road and footpath improvements schemes completed in Cut Bush, all necessary works in maintaining the quality of the lived environment.

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

As mentioned previously by last year’s adjudicator, there appears to be no entrance signs marking the approaches to Cut Bush, possibly the Council might be able to assist in having this regard, while having these signs in place would allow opportunity for the community to put suitable planting in place to enhance the approaches to Cut Bush.

However there were speed signs, school signs, junction signs and road markings in place.

On the day of adjudication there were no wandering sheep in evidence.

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 the community.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of your village and the work the committee has carried out. It is fully appreciated that taking part in the Tidy Towns competition initially and in the early days is a challenge requiring a full team with a lot of stamina and energy. You have risen to the challenge.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.