Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Johnstownbridge - Baile Sheáin**	Ref:	**1046**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**271**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**27/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	34	36
Streetscape & Public Places	80	28	30
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	27	29
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	28	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	38
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**255**	**271**

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.

Firstly, congratulations on winning the SuperValu National TidyTowns Endeavour Award for County Kildare in October 2025, recognising the biggest year-on-year improvement in the county. This is a great achievement for a group who have only been entering the competition for 3 years. Comhghairdeas.

For 2026, Johnstown Bridge Tidy Townlands has entered into Category B Village population between 201 and 1000.
Your current active committee of 6 members and approximately 20 volunteer families work regularly on your projects. It is very encouraging to hear that your committee and group has been strengthened by the addition of new officers to the committee.

Your change of name has been noted, as has your attention to proper governance and sourcing funding through grants for your work programme.

You have highlighted that many organisations, agencies, local businesses, voluntary organisations, sports and social clubs including the GAA Clubs, the local National School and the other schools in the surrounding areas, and numerous committed individuals have contributed to the excellent Johnstown Bridge 2026 submission. The contribution of your CE workers has also been acknowledged.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Johnstown Bridge, 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.

You have implemented a very proactive communications strategy that includes multiple channels of information as well as looking for feedback from your community. Your community survey with a significant focus on receiving the views of the younger residents of Johnstown Bridge is an excellent initiative as is the preparation of a Welcome Pack for new residents arriving in your developing town.

Your engagement with the younger cohort is evidenced by the photographs of work carried out during the year. Your taking up multiple opportunities for training and developing and seeing what other groups are doing is very impressive as is your submissions for 3 potential projects to the Leader programme.

You have included 2 appendices with your submission - a detailed map index linked to your many projects set out under the various categories and a 14-page photo pack of many excellent photographs of your work during the year and also including some nature photos including 2 photographs of the brilliant Jan. 2026 Northern Lights.

Your entry document and overall submission is excellent and covers all the requested categories. the but it is overly detailed and lengthy. You might consider reviewing your documents for duplication and repetition and also for items that might be dated. Please also note that there is a 500 word limit in each category so please adhere to this request in future submissions.

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

Johnstown Bridge is located on the R402 between Enfield and Edenderry and is centered on the junction with the Johnstown Road. The village is a typical ribbon development which has recently grown due to the number of new housing estates developed. It is situated close to the Meath/Kildare border and the M4 motorway which has helped it's growth as an expanding commuter town.
The central landmark of the village is the very striking Gothic Style St. Patrick's church with it's characteristic spire centred on the intersection of the R402 and the Johnstown Road heading in the direction of the GAA Club.
The well presented Hamlet Court Hotel complex is the other main landmark in the village and occupies a key corner site. Beside the hotel and bar on the same road frontage is the local Centra store, while on the other side of the road is the single storey B.R.E.D.A. Community Resource Centre, which was formerly the school house, and the well maintained St. Patrick's National School, which is a combination of an older school with a modern addition, with a Maxol filling station further out the road.
The main street comprises a mix of housing and retail units and small office premises and the architectural heritage of the main street has largely been retained.
The bench at the bus-stop has been put in place by the Mens Shed. The nature-themed art work to the utility cabinets in the village are excellent, well done to your artist.
The original stone Johnstown Bridge bridge over the Blackwater at the county boundary carries a heavy flow of traffic into and out of the town.
The out-of-town GAA Club is an excellent facility, the murals on the ball wall are very good. The proposal to link up the club and the village with a path and cycle way is certainly worth pursuing for a number of very good reasons.
There is a significant new housing development of 68 homes at the Spires which will be a major addition to the town, and there is also a smaller development off the main street which is nearing completion.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your submission includes many photographs of your community at work looking after and maintaining your green spaces during the year, special word of acknowledgement to the Foroige volunteers who took part in the planting of the spring bulbs which added to the colour of your village later on in the year. The CE worker also assisted with the summer planting for the village.
Good planting was observed at a number of locations in the village including the school, and the church grounds.
Planters and hanging baskets were much in evidence, well done in particular to the Hamlet team who brought good colour to the town.
It was also noted that the hotel was using it's own well water to keep it's gardens and planters fresh during the very dry spell.
Well done also to the various residents associations who have also made their contribution.
The decision to adopt a plan for your future planting is a major step forward for your community. As you correctly note it will take time for your new plan to be established but this is a very positive step. You intend to initially focus on perennial planting, propagate from existing planting, using the Mens Shed polytunnel, and most importantly you will not use harmful weedkillers. This will inevitably require more labour but ultimately it is the way to go.
It is not clear if you have in-house expertise but engaging a local horticulturist might also be a very positive step particularly in identifying and sourcing appropriate plants to meet your specific colour requirements. Preference is always for native species where possible.
Thank you for the work in keeping all the green spaces distributed through your village 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.
Johnstown Bridge is fortunate in that it's location offers a range of habitats and ecosystems to be supported and enjoyed. In particular your proximity to the Blackwater and Fear English rivers are particularly exciting for anyone interested in protecting your local watercourses.
Water is the starting point for all of nature, it keeps us alive and yet it is often undervalued and taken for granted. As you are aware the condition of our waterways has been in decline for a number of reasons and urgent action is needed to protect all our resources. Your active interest in protecting your rivers is very much welcomed.
Your engagement with various citizen science programmes and in particular your contribution to the National

Biodiversity Data Centre's Farmer Moth Monitoring project will provide current data and information so as to present an accurate picture of the condition of our natural world - well done on that initiative and also the recording of rainfall during the year.
The National Biodiversity Centre's web-site at www.pollinators.ie is an excellent source of very helpful information - you might find it helpful when future planting is being considered.
Finally your engagement with the Leader visiting programme is very welcome, seeing those very interesting community projects and equally important making connections with progressive groups such as the Carbury Village and Rathangan Tidy Towns can only lead to positive outcomes and results 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.
Johnstown Bridge has submitted a very detailed and lengthy schedule of projects and programmes that incorporate the principle of a circular economy model which involves sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.
On the day of the visit the recycling bins at the GAA Club were clear, accessible and available for use. The club also has solar panels on it's roof, presumably providing hot water as required. Is the Johnstown Bridge GAA Club a member of the GAA Green Clubs programme?
Similarly the Re-turn bin at the Centra was available for use. The introduction of the Re-turn scheme has been remarkably successful nationwide and has resulted in a significant reduction of plastic bottles and cans littering.
Increased participation in active travel and reduced dependency on cars is very much part of the journey to sustainability. In particular your lobbying for a local link bus service would provide the residents of Johnstown Bridge with an alternative mode of transport - local link routes have been very popular wherever introduced with a good take up. Your car-pooling for meetings is a small step but it all counts.
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 substantially so as to meet EU and Irish legislation. Your plan to meet the SEAI local representative this year is very much encouraged. Each month some 5000 homes are putting up new solar panels on their roofs, to save costs and to protect their local environment.
Many Tidy Towns Communities have been registered as Sustainable Energy Communities and Johnstown Bridge might well decide to engage in the drive to reduce our collective carbon footprint.
Your linking of your actions with specific Sustainable Development Goals in your submission is acknowledged.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Johnstown Bridge Tidy Towns Association and the volunteers together with the BREDA CE worker and the employees of Kildare County Council and other stakeholders have ensured that Johnstown Bridge has a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
The support of Grevilles Day Break to the Tidy Town team is acknowledged with thanks. The social aspect of Tidy Towns is essential so as to sustain interest and energy and to invite/recruit new volunteers.
Along with many other Tidy Towns groups, you have taken part in the An Taisce National Spring Clean Up initiative to get the year under way and you also have a number of general clean up days throughout the year, generally around holiday periods.
It is noted that you are using viz jackets and gloves and rest of the necessary equipment in your operations. Please remember that the safety of all is a primary consideration for all Tidy Towns committees and volunteers - please stay visible and please stay safe. You have raised the issue of the dumping of nitrous oxide canisters and it is no comfort to you but this problem is nationwide unfortunately.

Johnstown Bridge Tidy Towns has also undertaken to maintain one kilometre of roadside verge to outlying areas of the village under the very successful KCC "Green Kilometre" initiative.
Congratulations on your work.

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

t is acknowledged that it can be difficult to keep pace with the changes and needs of a developing community such as Johnstown Bridge. Your lobbying for a playground would appear to be a very reasonable request for a growing community.
The residents of the estates in Johnstown Bridge, including Windmill Court, Dunfierth Park, Bridgewell and The Glebe continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
Most of the homes seen had very well maintained frontage with colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets. The green spaces, many with trees to the estates were generally well looked after.
Some of these green spaces might provide opportunity for residents to lay down some wild meadows or to plant some pollinator friendly plants. For these green areas, residents have as many flowers as possible and mow less often. A 6-week mowing cycle allows clovers and daisies to return. It is appreciated that some might prefer the appearance of regular tight grass cutting but our pollinators prefer nettles and dandelions - it would be much appreciated if Tidy Towns were able to help get this essential information out to the wider community.
The entrance sign to Windmill Court was somewhat obscured by the yellow and purple flowers laid down. The handrails and railings to the pedestrian bridge in Dunfierth Park needs to be repainted.
It seems that the Tidy Towns Association has good relations and effective communications with the residents associations and representatives, which is very necessary.

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

The approach roads into Johnstown Bridge are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained.

The pedestrian way and the flowers to the stone wall at the bridge from the Enfield Roundabout along with the bilingual stone sign and flowers surround in grass is an excellent introduction to the town. It is not clear as to why 2 bins have been located here in such close proximity to one another.

While there was a steady flow of traffic through the town it appeared to be well managed by the traffic calming measures in place including two pedestrian crossings, clear signage and clear markings.

There appeared to be adequate parking in the village.

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:

It is very encouraging to report that Johnstown Bridge Tidy Townlands have kept up the momentum of their work last year into 2026. You have embarked on a programme of training and learning and you have show great energy and ambition in your work to date.

The adjudicator has not been able to comment on every one of your actions in this Tidy Towns application, but they have all been taken into account in the adjudication process.

Keep up the good work and thank you.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.