Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Kildare - Cill Dara**	Ref:	**100**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**376**
Category:	**F**	Date(s):	**15/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	57	59
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	39	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	28	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	42
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	40
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**361**	**376**

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 often passed through Kildare, this was my first visit to your town acting as the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026.
For 2026, Kildare Tidy Towns have entered into Category F Large Town population between 10,001 and 15,000.
Your 12 active committee members and a very impressive 60 volunteers work regularly on your projects.
Kildare Tidy Towns uses a number of sub-committees to sub-divide the work programme so as to deliver most effectively. You have also reported that the number of volunteers becoming involved has increased, which is a positive reflection of your work to date.

Kildare Town Tidy Towns is substantially supported by local businesses, residents' associations, schools, and community groups. For 2026, Kildare Tidy Towns have focussed on developing engagement with youth groups, particularly the Junior Tidy Towns and the Hive Youth Hub.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Kildare Tidy Towns 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.

Kildare Tidy Towns also have local in-house expertise in a number of relevant areas within the committee and the wider Tidy Towns community which can be called upon when necessary.

Your presentation of your methods of communication with all your stakeholder groups is well set out.

You have also attached your 2026-2028 Three Year Activity Plan set out under the various categories which usefully cross-references your entry,
The annotated Town Map included separately in your submission was detailed and clear and was of great assistance in the inspection.
You have successfully taken part in the national Tidy Towns competition since 2002.
Your participation in the national competition has resulted in the appearance, sustainability and quality of life in Kildare Town improving over the last 24 years.
While your submission is excellent, and includes all the required elements and very good photographs detailing your work during the year it is overly long and unfortunately did not take into account the request set out on the

entry form to limit your response to each category to less than 500 words.

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

Kildare Town is centred around the intersection of the R445 Dublin Street and the R415 Bride Street, with Market Square occupying a centre point for the town. The historic centre is St. Brigid's Church of Ireland Cathedral with the adjacent Kildare's landmark round tower by in the grounds, while close by on Bride Street is St. Brigid's Catholic Church, also occupying a prominent position.
The Cathedral is a fine 19th century classic building in the gothic style while the round tower apparently dates from the 12th century.
Kildare town has an interesting collection of public buildings and space, all overseen by your 2 churches. The thumbnail photographs included in your entry set out your rich heritage of buildings and streets and sculptures.
The recently upgraded hard landscaping at Bride Street to the front of the church, the refurbished CWMS building, in front of St. Brigid's National School and up to the natural stone clad Kildare Credit Union building looks very well.
The outstanding "Heart of the Oak" public art stone sculpture fits in very well with the finish, and overall the impression for this space is excellent.
The Kildare Community Development Centre/ Cill Dara Housing Association complex set back from Meadow Road is a fine re-purposing of an older building.
The stone Verger's House at the gated entrance to the Cathederal is a fine period building which was good to see still in use. It was also pleasing to see that the round tower was open to visitors.
Other fine buildings noted in the vicinity of the town centre included the Heritage Centre, and the brick Bank of Ireland building. The collection of overhead wiring to the Heritage Centre does not add to the overall picture.
The provision of outdoor dining facilities in the town adds to the footfall and viability of all the businesses in the town.
There are a number of sculptures, statues, memorials, street furniture, planters including an old re-purposed bike, bollards and notice boards in the square and taken together car-parking provision which all add to the lively nature of the square, the overall impression is one of clutter. It will be very interesting to see what impact the town renewal scheme will have here.
Out of town the railway station is an excellent Victorian building, which has been modernised and updated for current use.
Many of the shopfronts in the town also add to colour and variety of the streets, mention is made of just two examples The Five Jockeys bar and the nearby Seanchai Books amongst many excellent efforts in the town.
Tidy Towns have included their work in improving the appearance of the currently vacant and unused Old Courthouse as one of the new flagship projects for 2026.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your current entry and last year's adjudicators report confirm your continuing efforts and expertise in your delivery of planters throughout the town, and in particular the arrival of the planters to the paving at the CWMS together with some tree planting from earlier years have delivered a great space.
You have chosen your flowers for colour, and also critically for their roles as pollinators, and also taken the need to take account of all 4 seasons of the year in your planting and maintenance programme.
The various locations throughout the town are very well presented including the CWMS front mentioned above and also the main square and the roundabouts and approach roads.
The proposed Cherry Avenue Town Park is one of the most exciting opportunities for Kildare Town and may well in time become a major amenity for the town offering everything that any large town would hope for from a sizeable park relatively close to the centre. The input of the Tidy Towns and other community activist groups will be of great value in this exciting development.
It was also interesting to see that significant groundworks were under way at the grounds of Kildare Town AFC.
The planting of new trees throughout the town and surrounds is very welcome, including the delivery of a number of new chestnut trees to the open green space at Elm Park, bounded by the stone wall fronting on to Station Road.
Thank you for the work in keeping all the planters and 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 town name of Cill Dara meaning "the church of the oak" it is not surprise that the oak tree is central to Kildare's identity.
The mature oak tree with a guard beside the statue of Nano Nagle in the church grounds at Bride Street is one of many beautiful trees in the town.
Your very exciting 2026 project involves collecting acorns from native oak trees in ancient woodland at Kildangan Demesne, Co. Kildare, allowing the future propagation of native oak trees in the town and area. The photographs included in your submission are excellent and the fact that 2025 was a mast year ensured that there are a lot of acorns that need to be planted - well done and good luck with the rest of the project.
Tidy Towns have also participated in the Biodiversity Week events, and actively supported the Tales of the Curragh animated short film, a very innovative venture.
You have continued to engage in a number of ongoing vital projects including the distribution of pollinator friendly bulbs, the town swift box project, the Gods Acre project using the churchyards and graveyard to work with nature and promote diversity while respecting the heritage and use of the church grounds, and the increasingly critical work of assisting the ongoing eradication programmes for Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed invasive species.

You might consider looking at the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan to see if that could be a template for your own Biodiversity Action Plan for the future.
Finally, congratulations on the confirmed presence of the breeding swifts in Kildare in 2026 - very tangible proof of your work yielding results.

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.
Most groups are very active in encouraging community members to make their area more sustainable by their various actions.
Well done Kildare Tidy Towns on the projects and programmes under way in your town.
In particular the Tidy Towns membership of the Sustainable Energy Community Network which promotes practical sustainability and circular economy activities in the town.
This network promotes community awareness around reuse, repair, resource efficiency, waste prevention and low-carbon living. Examples of sustainable living where Tidy Towns have had an input include the re-purposing of old farm equipment as planters, your work and co-operation with the Kildare Community Garden work at Campion Crescent which is a super programme leading towards food security which tastes better, the promotion of water butts, and the reduction and hopefully elimination of the use of pesticides.
Hopefully the Community Garden Meditation Space will be completed in 2026 and more details will feature in your submission next year.
The promotion of active travel including walking and cycling is an example of sustainable living that is becoming increasingly popular in many towns. There is provision for some bike parking in the town, in the schools and the railway station, and there are also programmes in place to support active travel.
The Green Flags programme for schools also offers an opportunity to promote the message of sustainability, where Tidy Towns often acts as mentors and promoters of this student-led programme.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Kildare Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and other committed stakeholders including a number of very active workers from the Young Men's Shed, the Hive Youth Hub, local schools and Scout groups have ensured that Kildare Town and environs continues to have a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
You have a weekly litter clean-up and you continually monitor the litter bin situation in the town and keep in communication with the County Council
You have also taken an active lead role in the annual Spring Clean Initiative which also critically includes a social element for those who turn up and help out.
This adjudicator noted that the recycling facilities in the town were generally free of litter and fly tipping and were available for use.
The only exception noted to this high standard was some evidence of anti-social behaviour and litter left behind at the gates to the Cherry Avenue park. This dumping stood out because it was very much the exception to the rule in Kildare and surrounds.
Well done on the Mind Your Patch project, people are always interested in their own patch. Also given your particular location you have undertaken targeted litter picks along access routes, parking areas and walking locations associated with the world famous Curragh,
Congratulations on your work

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

Kildare town has expanded over the recent years with many new housing estates joining the older housing areas in a growing town.
The residents and community of the many estates in Kildare continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
Ruanbeg was typical of many 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 spaces had ample tree cover and kerbs and verges were tidy.
Wavetree estate also was in good condition with the more recently planted trees there still holding their stakes and supports. The swale area at the entrance here appeared to be left as a wild meadow.
Tidy Towns continues to work with the residents associations including helping with clean-up days and advising on No Mow projects and promoting best biodiversity practices, and also working with the residents on water management.
You have also worked with the residents of Elm Park on the Fairgreen. The bench at Fairgreen needs to be repainted.
You have plans to put an estates competition in place, this initiative has worked well in other towns, and you also aim to explore if the youth summer camps can help with the estates improvement.

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

While most traffic coming into the town enter by either the R445 from the Curragh, or by R415 Kildare Village Outlet roundabout, this adjudicator arrived into Kildare by the Tully Road route. It was a very pleasant entry into the town with good clear signage at all junctions. It is noted that Tidy Towns intends to adopt the Tully Road to St. Brigid's Well as their Green Mile /Green Kilometre project.

The approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges and well maintained hedgerows.
The pedestrian route at the Curragh was also reviewed. It was interesting to see sheep making their way into the grounds of the football club to inspect the ongoing works.

Having a Safe School route at St. Brigid's National School is also welcome.

The general condition of roads and paths coming into Kildare were excellent and it was a pleasure to walk around the community.

Kildare is served by a rail-service, and while there is some attempt at planting alongside the pathway and the main approach to the railway station, the main expanse of the car-parking area offers little in the way of decoration or landscaping.

There was ample parking available in the town including provision for disabled parking and traffic appeared to be moving well.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of your town and the work the committee has carried out. Kildare is a very interesting town with a great heritage. It is an especially exciting time for you to see how the new Town Park will develop. Thank you to all who have made their contribution. Best of luck for your future.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.