Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Kill - An Chill**	Ref:	**374**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**410**
Category:	**D**	Date(s):	**22/06/2026**
			26/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	60	62
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	46	48
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	29	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	71	73
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	50	51
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**397**	**410**

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 by the entrance signs from the N7 motorway to your village this was my first visit to Kill. As the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026 I was very impressed by your home town. Judging by your succession of gold medal awards since 2021 previous adjudicators have all been equally impressed.
While you have taken the guidance regarding size and volume submission your current 2026 submission remains a still substantial 67 pages including 45 pages of usefully cross-referenced supporting documentation including numerous YouTube links, maps and organisational charts. Your submission also includes your ambitious draft development plan for the next 3 years.
While it is definitely very useful for an adjudicator to see the time-lined photograph history of your excellent projects, there are some element of duplication and carrying forward previous elements of your submission which might usefully be reduced.
You have also attached your 2026 Summary of Specific Projects which usefully cross-references your entry, your detailed Plan for 202x-202x and your annotated Town Map.
It is evident that many organisations and numerous committed individuals have contributed to the work and progreamm of the Kill Tidy Towns.

Your 12 active committee members and a team of up to 20 volunteers work on your projects. On the evening of the adjudication 2 Tidy Towns veterans were on their hands and knees laying down a membrant in the park in preparation for putting down a layer of mulch as a counteract to weed - this committment to your community can only be admired. You have also been assisted by the Tus Initiative and the Community Employment Scheme.

Your presentation of your impressive list of local supporters is very clear and concise, thank you,

Continued engagement with the various Residents Associations and Scoil Bhride National School and Saplings Special School together with the other voluntary groups is an essential element of your work.

Thank you to the Men's Shed, the teachers and parents and pupils of the schools, the transition year students from Naas schools, the churches, the scouts, cubs and beavers, Kill GAA, Kill Celtic FC and other local sports clubs.

Your work is supported by many of the local businesses and commercial enterprises, including not limited to John

Ryan Haulage, BAM Construction, and Eurospar.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare 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.

Also with particular reference to Kildare the Category D Small Towns which is your catergory is especially competitive and of a high standard.

Again your presentation of your methods of communication covers all possibilities and is also very well set out. Your engagement with the competition over 40 years has delivered an exceptional place to live, work and play.

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

Kill is a typical ribbon development with your main areas of activity running from the N7 Junction 7 through the village to the Johnstown slip road.
You have made maximum use of the Main Street to ensure that it is not just a road but a place to stop, shop, sit, meet friends, and relax. The impressive St. John's Church remains one of your landmark buildings. The Clarendon Court development, the Dew Drop, the Hey Darling coffee shop and the Old House (very attractive shop front complete with window boxes) offer local shopping and catering, while the Mens Shed and Saplings School, St. Brigids Church, together with some housing line the street, with the attractive modern Scoil Bhride National School prominently bookends the village at the Junction 7 end. Kill GAA Club house and pitches and facilities is also a major centre of activity for the town. The colouring of the adjacent bookmakers shop does not help with the overall presentation of the street, matching the 2 adjacent homes on the terrace would be a definite improvement. You have an abundance of eye-catching street furniture and features - the brightly coloured water pump, benches in matching yellow and the DSPCA flower planter at the church being good examples. The submission for this year identifies the resurfacing of the parking area at the Clarendon Court as one of the new projects. You have also had the lettering on the Memorial Bench at Andy's Wall renewed. The white-washed terrace of single storey houses complete with freshly painted front boundary walls presents a very attractive street scape, and the pavings generally are in good condition. The numerous A planters are flowering and well maintained. Road signs, road markings and linings are all very visible.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

In 2025 you scored the second highest in this cagergory out of all of the Kildare entries and you have continued to deliver.
Many of the items noted in your submission under Streetscapes and Public Places have been taken into account under the Green Spaces and Landscaping category. As you already know the work to maintain green spaces and landscaping is the key to success along with a good plan. The evidence of your commitment to proper maintenance is clear to all. You have followed good practice in terms of the correct planting at the right time.
The various locations throughout the town are very well presented particularly the following : The Park, the especially striking Rowan Walk, the raised Pollinator Beds, the wild meadows and planting at the Johnstown Slip Road, and the Sensory Garden at the Saplings.
The outstanding sculpture in the centre of The Park is a fitting homage to an outstanding musician, it is understood that future plans for connecting the sculpture to the Pipers Club are under way.
The compost bays in the Park have now been helpfully identified and numbered which should assist the steady and constant production of healthy compost for the future. You might want to discreetly monitor the operation of the bays - it is possible that some fresh looking grass cuttings found their way into a Year 3 bay. The Tree Identification and quiz/acctivity boards add greatly to the interest of the park.

The Know Your Plants markers on the Rowan Walk are brilliant - there might be a need to cut back some vegetation or relocate the markers in one or 2 places so as to allow easier accessibility to anyone interested in learning more.
The landscaping at the Embassy Manor Business Park was also noted
In comparison to other towns, Kill has been blessed with an abundance of green spaces dispersed throughout the town. You have seized every opportunity to make the most of your resources, for example the Dara Way and the developing River Walk but it is your continued efforts and ambition over a lengthy period of time that has turned Kill into a jewel.
Thank you for the work in keeping all the green spaces distributed through Kill 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.
You are very well placed to develop a full appreciation of the need to promote biodiversity in your community . Your current entry and last year's adjudicators report confirm your collective expertise in this particular competency, with the active participation of your biodiversity adviser, an organic farmer and an ecologist all committed to a better future for all.
You have engaged in a diverse wide of projects and activities that promote a full appreciation of nature. Again you fully appreciate the need for continuing on with maintaining programmes in addition to taking on new projects - your ongoing upkeep and development of Kill's wildlife corridor developed over many years is critical to your town.

Particular attention must be give to the development of wildflower meadows - dandelions and nettles are an essential part of our environment and also need to be nurtured. Please let them bloom. You have done an excellent job on grass cutting and rewilding. Your ongoing Tree Planting programme is well under way and again is delivering results. You have a bat sanctuary and you have plans for encouraging single bees habitats.
It is very encouraging to have real evidence of good water quality in the Kill river at a time when water quality nationally has deteriorated significantly over the last 10 years, ultimately the aim has to be that the water in our rivers and streams are safe to drink and swim in which seems a long way away. All of the measures you are taking will improve everybody's health and quality of life.

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.
Kill is recognising the need for all to reduce our collective impact on the environment, You have mentioned the increased use of solar panels in your community, well done to the Saplings School and Eurospar - large areas of roof offer great potential in terms of renewables. It is also encouraging to see EV charging points distributed throughout Kill, moving away from fossil fuels.
Use of water butts is also very encouraging, Catching and storing rainwater also has wider benefits as it reduces the amount of water entering drains and watercourses in a storm and can help reduce flooding.
Future possibilities for the furthe developments of allotments might be considered.
Thanks to the motorway, Kill does not have a serious issue with motor traffic passing through the town. Previous reports have mentioned development of cycle ways and plans for connection to Naas and Johnstown - has there been any progress in this regard? There is a separate Walk and Cycleway path into Kill from the Johnstown slip-road but no markings for cycling were noted, it is possible that they were missed by the adjudicator.
Research has shown that cycling for all, especially young people leads to a happier independent life, and getting the infrastructure into place is a necessary step. On the day of adjudication a lot of young athletes were being driven to training which should be unnecessary. Cycling to school should be an option for most pupils.
The facilities are in place to allow all recycling. Thank you to Eurospar and Scoil Bhride and Kill GAA for hosting the batterry recycling and clothes recycling. The County Council sign needs to be either cleaned or replaced at recycling centre beside the church.
The use of the recycled Portacabin and storage container is another great example of your embracing the Sustainability message.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Kill Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and other stakeholders have ensured that Kill continues to have a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
On the day of adjudication there was no litter or debris seen. The areas around the bottle banks and recycling in Kill GAA club were clear. All liiter bins had been emptied.
Your participation in the Green Kilometre Scheme over 6 years is also acknowledged - this is a scheme that delivers very tangible results.
Congratulations on your work

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

It is accepted that the current and ongoing development of housing in Kill does impact on the town and the residential streets.
Nevertheless the housing on the Main Street and adjacent areas are very well maintained and cared for with several stand-out houses. The second house of the white-washed terrace of cottages has a spectacular rose garden display that deserves high praise.
Your engagement with the residents of the newer developments in Kill is critical to the future of your town. You mention that there are 19 residents associations/groups in Kill, which is an extraordinary number for a small town. Your documentation sets out the work being carried out by 10 identified groups: Earlscourt, Rochford Park, Embassy Manor, Newtown Manor, St. Patrick's Park [already a serial prize winner], The Gables, Glen Dara, The Stables, Sadliers Hall and River Lawns. The newer estates including Ambassador Place and Greenhills Park look set to follow the lead of the earlier developments.
Some of the many green spaces with trees to the estates might provide opportunity for residents to plant some pollinator friendly plants.
The issue of weeds to cobblelock has already been mentioned and you have detailed your response, the efforts to avoid pesticides is much appreciated - again continued vigilance and maintenance is the key to keeping the roads, paths, pavings and verges in top condition.
The residents and communities of Kill continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.

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

As mentioned previously, volunteen participation in the Green Kilometre Scheme is a very positive development for all coming into Kill.

The pollinator friendly plants to the Welcome to Kill stone beds roundabout at the entrances appeared to be thriving and provide a green entrance to the town.

The small cobblelock roundabout at the , complete with mature cordelia and a dazzling array of colour and the larger and colurful roundabout are well cared for and provide a good entrance to the town.

The tree planting to the embankment and the leaving of an extensive wildflower meadow at the Johnstown Slip Road is an excellent entrance.

The Junction 7 upgrade is also well under way.

This adjudicator arrived into Kill by the by-pass route.. It was a very pleasant entry into the town with good clear signage at all roundabouts.

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 very impressed with the presentation of Kill and the work that the committee and many volunteers and supporters have carried out. It is very much hoped that Kill will continue to play such an active and prominent role in the Tidy Towns competition.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

Second Round Adjudication:

Our visit and adjudication of Kill took place on a warm, sunny day in late July. We had visited Kill many times before, but this time as adjudicators, we approached with different eyes. Before our visit, we downloaded the maps attached to your application. The map had 25 projects to visit but the locations weren't clear (we did finally locate them all). We recommend that you put a legend on your map with the project names and numbers listed and then put the location of the project – just the number in a circle – on the map. While we open a Facebook page and other social media platforms unfortunately, due to time restrictions, we don't have time to open web links. You gave us a large number … we stopped counting at 30! This document with all the weblinks is fine for your community to see but not for us, so put it on your Facebook page.
Well done on your structural approach to completing the application form. It was very easy to read and the supporting documentation was clear. While some adjudicators prefer to see the photos included in the category to which they refer, we're easy, so putting them at the end was fine. It's wonderful that you have an Ecologist advising you – the Assessment report was interesting. We assume that next year we will see that you have commenced with his recommendations. Are there other areas in the village that also contribute to Biodiversity? A Kill Biodiversity Plan should be undertaken shortly so that you assess what you have and preserve and enhance habitats etc. to strengthen them. Please advise the residents of Glendara estate to leave the banks of the river uncut. It is crucial that this riparian zone is uncut. These areas are natural filters that catch pollution. In addition they protect the banks against erosion, and also give food and shade to wildlife as a biodiversity corridor. It seemed that chemical weed control had been used in some areas in the open communal space which is completely unacceptable.
Your village, an elongated one, is located parallel to the N7 and roughly stretches from Junction 7 to Junction 8. We entered from the north, down a tree lined avenue which has maple (Acer), plane (Platanus), lime (Tilia) and unfortunately some dead and dying ash (Fraxinus). The school gates were locked but we looked through and admired the mural of St. Bridgit. We stopped and walked along Rowan Walk. It is well planted and the discrete information panels are perfect. While we are not in favour of signage as it detracts from a landscape and streetscape, these small, vertical, well located information signs, are very suitable in this location. The Sensory Garden of Saplings, viewed through the railings is great – a planting bed for each of the senses. The mural at Hope House is wonderful – a beautiful theme with so much to see and admire! Carrying it across the water butt and utility box was perfect. Well done on the Tree Trail. We guessing that adults as well as children learn from your information panels! The signs were dirty and we fell that soon you'll have to replace them as they are getting a little worn.
There are wonderful planters along your streets, which gave great colour and movement. The beds for bats, moths and butterflies are perfect - tall planters separating the pedestrians from the motorists. We noted one planter dedicated to The Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Please compliment your businesses and residents on the main street who presented their properties so beautifully and particularly those who made a special effort in their garden presentation and floral arrangements – hanging baskets, planters, herbaceous borders, ornamental trees, hedges etc. all well maintained adding to the beauty of your streetscape.
Most of your new housing estates have tree lined roads which give a very pleasant living environment to the residents. We were totally surprised with the planting of Hillfort – absolutely a pollinators paradise. Well done to the management company for this wonderful planting selection. The row of sweet bay (Laurus nobilis) trees is wonderful but remember these must be pruned annually to retain this shape. There are a number of housing estates where there are block or rendered blank walls along entrance roads and communal open spaces. We recommend that climbing plants be grown – ivy, pyracantha, honeysuckle, clematis montana, clematis vitecellas, etc. A small hole to be made in the concrete path is all that's needed for those along the footpaths. The compost area in one of the estates was noted – unfortunately the residents are not respecting the different cages. We also saw the compost area in the park beside the RC church and here is well notated and is used correctly. We spent some time admiring Red Admiral butterflies on flowers of the Buddleia bush.
We noted the artistically painted utility box of the fox – beautiful. It would be good if you could paint all other utility boxes in a theme that relate to Kill. It's not possible to do all of them together so undertake this over a number of

years. Needless to say that permission must be requested. Those along your streetscape could have a theme which relates to your connection with the horse industry, music tradition or aspects of your historical buildings, while those adjacent to planting beds could have a colourful floral theme. We greatly admired your small, timber signs, with the place names picked out meticulous in white paint. They are extremely clear and easy for the motorists to read. We also admired that Irish in addition to English has been used. Compliments to the creator(s).
We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Kill – we saw quite a lot and enjoyed what we saw.