Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Kilmead - Cill Míde**	Ref:	**375**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**347**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**20/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	56	58
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	38	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	39
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**332**	**347**

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.

Kilmead Tidy Towns is very welcome yet again to the National Tidy Towns Competition, Kilmead has been successfully entering this competition for 31 years, and you have seen your homeplace grow significantly over that time
For 2026, Kilmead Tidy Towns have entered into Catergory B Village population between 201 and 1000.
Your current active committee has 3 members and 10 volunteers who work regularly on your projects. You have been trying to increase the number of committee members willing to come on board and take an active role for a number of years. It goes without saying that it is not good for any organisation, be it community voluntary based or business or sporting association to be too reliant and overly-dependent on a small number of leaders for too long. Hopefully in 2027 Kilmead Tidy Towns will be able to report on having increased your resources while also having maintained some continuity.

Kilmead is also supported by the Community Employment scheme in helping keep your village and surroundings including the local Amenity Area located at the Moat of Ardscull in good condition.

Your presentation of your impressive list of local supporters is very clear and concise, thank you. You are very deeply embedded in your community and the support of the various resident associations, schools, other voluntary, social, church and sporting groups is critical to the work of the Tidy Towns group. That ongoing support is acknowledged in your 2026 entry.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Kilmead 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.

Again your presentation of your methods of communication covers all possibilities and is also very well set out. In addition to the traditional word of mouth and phone, you are using Facebook and the local newspaper to keep the community informed of your efforts.

Your submission is excellent and includes a significant response to each requested category including a project reference for each time of work undertaken or planned.

You have also included some excellent photographs in your entry - some are dating from 2019, the photos and the listing of projects might be usefully reviewed and updated, leaving out some items from the past and hopefully including some new projects and photos from 2026 and 2027

You have included 6 maps in your submission which is understandable given the geographical spread of your area of responsibility. For example your map for the location of St. Laurence's GAA Club and Community Complex illustrates why the club is so important for Kilmead and many of your neighbours.

Well done on your submission and thank you to all who have made their contribution.

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

Kilmead is a rural village in Kildare primarily served by the R418 route running between Athy and Kilcullen, with the main area of Kilmead centred on Chapel Lane and the New Line Road off the R418 route.
The main public landmark buildings in the village are the neat and tidy St. Ita's Church, with parish office and attached graveyard and grotto and the adjacent Scoil Íde Naofa National School, Kilmead both fronting onto Chapel Lane.
The church originally dates from 1798 and the stained glass windows are striking. The stations of the cross in the church were originally in St. Vincent's Hospital when it was based in St. Stephens Green Dublin.
The church car park has been extended and is also used by the school. The railings have been painted by the Tidy Towns, and a line of trees have been cut back in recent years.
The village is a typical ribbon development with a number of one-off houses lining the roads and also a number of small housing estates within walking distance of the village.
The paths and cycleway between the school and the church have recently been upgraded.
Kilmead Tidy Towns also look after surroundings including the local Amenity Area located at the historic Moat of Ardscull, and also consider St. Laurence's GAA Club and Community Complex based in nearby Narraghmore and which serves a number of villages in the area including Kilmead and Ballitore, as the local club.
Kilmead is set in very scenic surroundings and is a very pleasant village to live and to visit.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

While the main areas of interest in Kilmead centre on the out of town Moat of Ardscull and the Newline Nature Walk and Sanctuary, the village has a number of pockets of green spaces throughout the town including the excellent stone planter at the water pump, the St. Johns Wort, and planters to the grotto, and the planting in the graveyard, church grounds and car-park. There is some shrubs in the green spaces leading to the housing estates and at entrance signs.
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. You are also trying to ensure that the bedding will come back every year.
There is some excellent planting at the GAA Club including the entrance, the hedging to the play area and the lavender at the main entrance to the clubhouse.

You have also been proactive in trying to reduce or preferably eliminate the use of herbicide weedkillers in Kilmead, that is a very welcome move.

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.
Your current entry and last year's adjudicators report identify the Moat of Ardscull on the R418 as the focus of your drive to support nature and diversity. The area and grounds and the woods surrounding the remains of an old 12th century Anglo-Norman Motte and Bailey are a highlight of the visit to Kilmeade and even though it is steep and difficult under foot, the climb to the top through the the woodland was very worthwhile. Coming down it was possible to get a great view over the countryside through the dense tree cover. At the bottom of the Moat and next to the car-park there is a wild flower meadow initiated and sponsored by the Tidy Towns, the meadow is surrounded by hedgerow, acting as wildlife corridors. It is immediately obvious that this meadow has been a long labour of love and it is no surprise that the Motte and Bailer received recognition in the SuperValu TidyTowns competition, winning the National Wildlife Award in 2005 alongside its earlier local and regional accolades. Even more than 20 years later it is an eye-catching piece of work even in the current dry spell.
The connection of the Moat of Ardscull site to the historic and famous 1903 Gordon Bennett motor-car race is remembered here by the fine stone memorial.
The Newline Nature Walk and Sanctuary, maintained by the Tidy Towns, is closer to the village and is a more modest effort in scale but is a very interesting walk through the Kilmead woods and fields, and it is an easier path than the Moat climb. It finds it's way up through the designated wildlife sanctuary to the disused 15th century Fitzgerald graveyard. The graveyard is close to being overtaken by nature.
Kilmead Tidy Towns have recognised that information and education is critical to the spread of the nature and biodiversity message. Your long-standing plans for additional information boards in relation to wildlife, habitats and natural amenities at the Moat are very welcome - hopefully they will come to fruition soon.
Well done also on your initiative encouraging home-owners to cut back on the grass mowing. Research shows that longer grass supports beetles, spiders, and butterflies all necessary for a thriving ecosystem. Thank you.

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 actions.
Well done to the students, teachers and parents and the Board of Management of the very progressive Kilmead Scoil Íde Naofa National School who are in the top 20 Schools in Kildare for recycling batteries, with over 35kg of batteries recycled to date through WEEE, congratulations to all who took part in this entitative. You are also leading the way in recycling mobile phones and print cartridges and reducing the use of plastic. You are also cutting down on the use of electricity and energy and are monitoring your taps so that water wastage is reduced.
Congratulations on taking part in the nationwide student-led Green Flag programme - one of the benefits of being part of this scheme is that there are always more sustainable ideas to be taken on board. Has the school considered the use of water butts so as to further minimise water use?
The centralised recycling facilities at St. Laurence's GAA club are extensive and appears to be well used. On the day of the inspection visit the clothing bank bins were full. The area was clean, probably helped by the presence of CCTV security, and easily accessible. The estimated tonnage of glass, drink cans and fabric material not going to landfill and instead being recycled is truly impressive, it is certainly on a par with most of the major clubs based in larger urban centres, well done to the club.
It was also encouraging to see bike racks and a bike repair stand at the club, even if there were no bikes on the day of the visit.
Are St. Laurence's a member of the GAA Green Clubs programme?
Sustainability is a very broad term - if you look at all the actions and activities in Kilmead you might be surprised to see what your community is doing to promote your local circular economy.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

From the visit to Kilmead and the Moad of Ardscull it is obvious that Kilmead Tidy Towns are running a very effective operation. Your daily and weekly litter picks are showing in the excellent appearance of your village and extensive surrounds, it takes a serious effort to keep up such good appearances. All bins were clean and available for use.
As you have noted dumping at the Moad of Ardscull is an issue, there was some bags dumped in the forest on the day of the adjudication, and unfortunately there was also some evidence of minor anti-social behaviour at the Newline Nature Walk in a number of locations, but this was very much the exception to the rule in Kilmead and surrounds.
Your actions and your comments in relation to placing restrictors on the bins at the Moat are noted.
Over the years you have maintained your areas relatively free of graffiti, unfortunately there was some very offensive graffiti on one of the Moat signs on the day of the visit, hopefully it was removed quickly.
Your participation and co-ordination in the annual Spring Clean in association with An Taisce National Spring Clean is a great start every year for all tidy towns communities, it sets the tone for the year ahead. Hopefully you have kept the litter pickers and high viz jackets ready and that you will join in again in 2027.
Kilmead Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the CE workers, and Kildare County Council ensured that Kilmead and the stunning Moat of Ardscull amenity continues to have a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited. Overall, it was a great visit in this regard

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

Given the size of your village and the fact that the 4 estates are in such close proximity to one another, compared to other tidy towns, it is probably a bit easier for Kilmead Tidy Towns to maintain contact with the various residents associations and representatives.
On the day of the adjudication, every one of the estates was visited by the adjudicator, and thank you to all residents of Moat View, Cluain Ard, St. Ita's Park, and New Line Grove for taking such good care of their estates.
Signs to the estates were visible, some could be improved by having some planting around or in one case removing a sad looking planter.
Best of luck to the Moat View and New Line Grove estates on their joint entry into the Kildare County Council Pride of Place Competition, they will be great representatives for Kilmead and will do well.
Many of the homes had made great efforts in their gardens and gardens do not suddenly bloom overnight.
Congratulations on your weekly grass cut of the open spaces with lawnmowers which are fitted with special mulching mechanisms which help with waste management.
It would be great to see the wild meadow no-mow initiative take root in the estates, Kilmead estates are fortunate in the amount of common green spaces available. The estates are also well served by trees but there is always room for more.

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

From the Chapel Lane water pump and stone marked entrance off the R418 down to the village and the New Line/ Monatore entrance also marked with an entrance name stone, the approach roads into Kilmead are overall very clean, with clear markings and well maintained.
While the R418 road surface and markings are good, the road signage at the junction could be improved, the Athy/Kilcullen sign is somewhat covered by vegetation, and the finger post signs are not clear, and might even be not pointing in the right direction.
The roads to the village, including hedging and verges were all in good condition, thank you to Tidy Towns and the

landowners for recognising the critical role of hedgerows as wildlife corridors. The proposals for the planting of a new native hedgerow with specimen trees close to the village centre are to be applauded, hopefully your 2027 submission will be able to report positive progress there. Also best of luck with your plans for a “Slí na Sláinte” walkway.
Kilmead is fortunate that there is no significant amount of through traffic in the village. Nevertheless, the roads and the traffic calming measures at the school appeared to be in good condition.

Concluding Remarks:

You opened your submission with the note that Kilmead Tidy Towns believe that the whole community is behind your primary focus which has and always will be to “improve our local environment to make Kilmead a better place to live, work and visit”.

This adjudicator was very impressed with the presentation of your village and impressive surroundings and the work the committee and volunteers have carried out.

This report confirms that you collectively all have made Kilmead a better place to live, work and visit.

Keep up the good work and thank you.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.