# Tidy Towns Competition 2026

## *Adjudication Report*

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| Centre: | **Kilteel** | Ref: | **1123** |
| County: | **Kildare** | Mark: | **240** |
| Category: | **B** | Date(s): | **02/08/2026** |

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80 | 32 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 80 | 32 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 80 | 32 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 80 | 32 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 80 | 32 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 36 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 55 | 22 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 55 | 22 |
| **TOTAL MARK** | **600** | **240** |

**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 my first visit to Kilteel.
As the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026 I was very impressed by your home town.
Welcome back to the National Tidy Towns Competition, it has been some time since Kilteel entered the competition and having seen your work it is great for the competition to have you back.
It is fully appreciated that the structure and the requirements of the competition have changed over the years and the effort to prepare a submission is considerable, particularly if the entrant is starting over, compared to entrants who have remained practiced.
For 2026, Kilteel Tidy Towns have entered into Category B Village population between 201 and 1000.
Your submission of 16 pages is excellent and very well presented. It is concise and sufficiently detailed and laid out very methodically under the various required headings.
The photographs included are really good, particular mention is made of the shot of the weary worker enjoying a break at the seat in the stone wall at the road sign with the filled planters, the colours of the wall, the viz jacket, the planter and the worker are brilliant - if you need a fundraiser this is the picture to sell.
Your 6 active committee members and 10 volunteers work regularly on Monday mornings on your many improvement and maintenance projects. It is very apparent that this is also a very social group which is very much welcomed.

You have highlighted the organisations including the Hall Committee and St. Brigid's Weekend Committee that have contributed to Kilteel's submission. You have also noted that some anonymous contributions have been made.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Kilteel 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.

Kilteel Tidy Towns will find that the Council is a great source of support and information for the various Tidy Towns organisations working in the county, and is one of the most pro-active local authorities in the country in this regard.
It is strongly recommended that you link up with the various networks and communities that are operating in Kildare.
You are currently relying on your regular meetings and the parish newsletter to maintain contact with the community.
You have also attached your annotated and very clear Town Map setting out the various projects and locations referred to in your submission. Thank you - it made the inspection visit very easy.

It is great news that Kilteel have returned to the National Tidy Towns Competition and you will learn from other groups but judging from this initial visit it is very much expected that other towns and villages will be very interested in seeing what you have done.
Fáilte ar ais abhaile.

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

Kilteel is a rural townland, typical ribbon development cantered on the local route L2018 between Rathcoole and Rathmore, at a crossroads with the L6030 road which eventually joins the N81.
While in Kildare, Kilteel is very close to the county boundaries of Dublin and Wicklow.
The main landmark buildings in the village are the Kilteel Church, and the nearby 2-storey Kilteel Inn and attached single-storey former national school from 1845, set in a fine stone-faced refurbished building. Apparently the school building replaced a hedge school in the area and was only closed in 1968.
The Catholic Church of Saint Laurence is a detached double storey 6-bay church with bell tower attached built in 1934/1935 and has been maitinained in very good condition. There is a decorative crib to St. Laurence O'Toole attached to the church, and the grounds, boundary walls and entrance gates are in excellent condition.
Some improvement works including new paving and work to the boundaries at the Small Park have been put in place over the recent years.
One of the main characteristics of Kilteel is the stone walls and verges that line a significant section of the roads paddling through the village and beyond.
Kilteel Tidy Towns have made a significant effort over the last number of years to repair and re-build the stone walls in the area and the outcome is magnificent. Local matching stone has been laid in a variety of styles, with the inclusion of ornamental features adding to the overall excellence of your work. As well as the decorative milk churn stand, you have built in some seats in the walls as well as a free-standing Rest-a-while, and also decorated slate with horses head and Brigid's Cross, both of which appear to have lighting in place for night powered by solar.
The village has also been decorated by some street furniture, including painted, decorated, and well maintained benches, water pump, famine pot and a piece of farm equipment in the small park which was probably not used to hold pebbles in it's former life.
The overall impression is of a community with great pride in their village.
Well done to Kilteel Tidy Towns.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

For a relatively small village Kilteel has a great number of green spaces that have been well worked on by the community through the years.
Alongside the road, there are a number of verges that have been mown and have been augmented by a number of well looked after planters. The planters in place in the village are very attractive and are obviously the result of many hours of work and attention.
While the planters are always welcome, especially where hard surfaces are the only option available, the preference is for ground planting where native perennials are used. In-ground plants need less frequent watering than planters, earth holds water longer than pots, and plants can grow much larger without becoming root-bound.
In addition to the garden in the churchyard already mentioned above, the village has the very attractive rockery garden at the water pump, and also the Small Park which has a number of trees, there is also a the sloping verge between the road and the Old Schoolhouse and the Inn.
Kilteel Tidy Towns have also very well used their rebuilding of the stone walls as an opportunity to promote planting in the available spaces.
The fact that you have put some some strategically placed well maintained benches and seats adjacent to your green spaces also greatly adds to your home-place.
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.
Kilteel is well placed to enjoy and explore the many opportunities for the enhancement of nature and biodiversity in your locality.
You have started work on the old cemetery, cleaning out grasses and invasive species.
As you have noted you want to maintain the balance between the natural habitats and opening up the cemetery for public access. There are a number of schemes already in operation in other Kildare towns where active consideration is given to promoting nature in graveyards and church grounds, while respecting the sanctity of the grounds.
As with most rural areas, there is obviously a great interest in nature in the village, there is a bug hotel fixed to a tree close to a rowan tree in the verge which was laden down with berries, and there was also a butterfly board fixed to a pole.
You might consider drawing up a biodiversity action plan for Kilteel, identifying the many opportunities that are there. Kildare County Council's Biodiversity Action Plan for 2026-2031 is an excellent document that might assist your future work. The document specifically identifies Tidy Towns such as Kilteel as partners who might actively investigate opportunities to improve community biodiversity actions - the opportunities are there for you.
In addition to the Tidy Towns network, it is recommended that you engage with the Council's appointed Biodiversity Officer, this will prove to be a great resource for you draw on.
The National Biodiversity Centre's web-site at www.pollinators.ie is also an excellent source of very helpful

information.

### 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.
You have identified your use of local stone in the wall restoration programme carried out by Killteel Tidy Towns and also the use of the salvaged milk churns as street decorations as examples of sustainability practices in your village.
Most groups are very active in encouraging community members to make their area more sustainable by their actions. Energy, water and transport are the three main themes under which sustainable actions can be made.
The installation of a significant number of solar panels to the old school house is a very obvious example of sustainable practice in place, leading to reduced carbon emissions and ultimately reducing costs for the community.
The SEAI are very anxious to promote improved insulation standards, and environmentally friendly practices to housing and public buildings. If approached they will be more than willing to make a presentation to the wider community to explain and advise on the various options available.
Your very well stocked Take A Book Leave A Book locker is another successful example of sustainability practice as is the spectacle recycling collection point at the locker.
From the use of water butts to self sufficiency in fruit and vegetables - Kilteel is very well placed to become more sustainable.

### Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

This adjudicator saw no litter or evidence of fly-tipping or dumping on the visit to Kilteel.
Kilteel Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and the residents and homeowners along the road have ensured that Kilteel has a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
It is also noted that you use the clean up drive as as a social occasion with tea and coffee in the Kilteel Hall afterwards - it has to be an enjoyable venture as well, the most successful groups have fun.
You might be interested in joining the many other Kildare Tidy Towns groups who have undertaken to maintain three kilometres of roadside verge outside their village and outlying area under the very successful KCC “Green Kilometre” initiative.
Congratulations on your work

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

As a community largely comprised of detached rural houses, the residents Kilteel maintain and keep their homes, gardens and road frontage to a very high level.
Many of the homes had very well maintained colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets.
Many of the homes had good tree cover and good hedging.
The Verdant Vista name could well be applied to many of the homes in Kilteel - lots of enthusiastic gardeners and home keepers at work in Kilteel.

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

This adjudicator arrived into Kilteel by the L2018 route from Rathcoole. It was a very pleasant entry into the village along a well marked country road with a good surface condition.
The Welcome to Kilteel stone sign was clear. The cart wheel fixed to the high stone wall at this sign was an interesting touch .
The approach road is lined with hedge, trees, and the walls and boundaries of the homes lining the road.
There are no paths on most of the approach and exit roads, and even though the roads are narrow it is a very popular route for cyclists out for a spin, the climb to The Lamb is a well know test for the keenest of cyclists. There was little in the way of traffic on the day of adjudication but that might not always be the case.
The Kilteel entrance sign approaching from Cupidstown Hill had a very full planter, excellent array of predominantly yellow but very colourful flower selection.
The Slan Abhaile slate was a very fitting complement to the stone walls.

### Concluding Remarks:

Given that this is your first entry and submission in many years, this adjudicator was very impressed with the presentation Kilteel and the work the committee has carried out over the last few years.

It is such an interesting village with a great history, sitting on the edge of the Pale and so close to the county boundaries and yet largely undiscovered. It was a very memorable visit for all the right reasons. Good luck with your future submissions and thank you for being part of the National Tidy Towns.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.