Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Leixlip - Léim an Bhradáin**	Ref:	**376**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**404**
Category:	**G**	Date(s):	**27/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	61	63
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	50	52
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	27	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	46	48
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	44
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**390**	**404**

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 to your town this was was my first visit to Leixlip acting as the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026
Judging by your succession of awards over the last 9 years previous adjudicators have all been impressed by your work and by your town.
Your commitment to the health and safety of your volunteers including the wearing of Hi-Viz jackets and also your committee jackets, is also noted - the health and safety aspect of your work has to remain a priority for all who take part in any activity. Well done.
For 2026, Leixlip Tidy Towns have entered into Category G Large Urban Centre population between 15001 and 25000.
Your 13 active committee members and a very impressive core 72 volunteers work regularly on your projects. Given the size and expanding and diverse nature of Leixlip, it is essential that you have significant resources in place to make an impact.

The work of your School Liaison Officers is especially noted - this is your essential investment in the future of your town.

You have successfully taken part in the national Tidy Towns competition for an incredible 64 years. Your participation has resulted in Leixlip being a better place to live in.
Your 2026 entry is 49 pages long and is a comprehensive and detailed response to all the categories requested, and is well illustrated by many excellent photographs. Please note that there is a 500 word limit request for each category, it would be helpful if this guidance was followed in future submissions.

You have also attached your updated 2025 Project Plan which usefully sets out your proposed projects under each competition category with the timeline for completion.
The Leixlip Projects Map, colour coded and index linked to the various projects listed in the submission is excellent, and was of great assistance to the adjudicator's visit.

You have highlighted that many organisations, businesses, sports clubs, churches, agencies, and numerous committed individuals have contributed to the efforts of the Leixlip Tidy Towns during the year, and indeed over

many years. The work of the Scouts and the Confey Youth Community Centre is also essential to the town. Thank you to all who have helped out.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Leixlip 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. You have particularly mentioned your engagement with the Council's Heritage Officer and the Area Engineer.

Also with particular reference to Kildare the Category G which Leixlip entered is especially competitive and of a high standard.

Leixlip Tidy Towns appear to have a very strong communications strategy that includes information, and you utilise a range of traditional and social media. Your Bring A Friend idea is one that might be usefully copied by other Tidy Towns groups, and the visibility of your branded work trailer is excellent.

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

Leixlip is located on the old Dublin to Sligo road (Now R148) between Lucan and Maynooth. It is centred on the bridge crossing the Liffey river and also has the River Rye as a tributary to the Liffey and the Grand Canal in the town.

Leixlip is served by the M4 motorway and while maintaining it's rich historical heritage largely arising from it's connection with the Guinness family, it is also a rapidly developing commuter town, and is also home to many businesses, including the major campus of Intel located at the Collinstown Industrial Park just outside the town.

While much of the town is centred on the Main Street and Station Street, and the adjacent streets, Leixlip's main landmark building is the iconic Wonderful Barn, where the Tidy Towns carry out regular clean-ups, the building has been used to mark public holidays.

While there is some dereliction apparent in the town, there appeared to be a lot of regeneration and re-fitting projects either recently completed or currently under way. The provision for pedestrian traffic on the Main Street is limited at some areas.

For 2025/2026 Tidy Towns have primarily been concerned with maintenance projects, which is not surprising given the rich architectural heritage that the town enjoys, the submission sets out the many areas and buildings that enrich Leixlip.

In addition to the gates of Leixlip Castle, the Churches, the Boathouse and the many other buildings and public spaces of particular interest, the following were also noted: the three-arch stone bridge over the joining of the Rye and the Liffey at the Salmon Leap, the terrace of stone houses at The Mall, the butterfly sculpture at the Roantree Park, the three schools at Green Lane Scoil Eoin Phol, Scoil Bhride and Scoil Mhuire, the impressive Leixlip House Hotel, the Seven Pillars for the 1916 at the river, and also the great decoration to the 1st/10th Leixlip/Confey Scouts headquarters.

The Leixlip Amenities Centre was a hive of activity on the day of inspection as was the grounds of Leixlip GAA.

The Matt Goff flyover bridge at the other end of Leixlip is in good condition, but nevertheless it is scheduled to get a makeover.

Leixlip has made the most of it's many attractions by having an excellent Heritage Trail, Arthurs Walk, the Rye River Trail and the 8 short stages of the Leixlip Tree Trail, all well signed and informative. The viewing platform at the rear of the Courtyard Hotel offers an excellent view over the river.

Tidy Towns have also maintained the street furniture, including benches and seating, the black and white bollards, painted the utility cabinets and delivered an eye-catching unusual mural to the Diep gable. The train collection of utility boxes at Accommodation Road is very appropriate, well done. The barriers and rails at the top of the Clay Steps at Old Hill might also be added to the painting schedule.

The high quality re-painting of the old street names signs adds greatly to the sense of place.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

As well as the wonderful amenity value of your setting beside the River Liffey and the Rye, and the Linear Park, there are many beautiful and well-maintained green spaces to be enjoyed in Leixlip.

Many of the spaces had some beautiful landscaping, including plenty of pollinator friendly plants as well as some very well maintained seating, which are a good way to let people connect with each other in your community. The beds laid at the junction of Green Lane and Maynooth Road are a great example of your work

The Wild Meadow was a delight to visit, the slightly overgrown nature of it all added to the experience, with the labelling of the trees generally intact and legible.

Leixlip Tidy Towns have made every effort to minimise the use of planters where the ground option is available but you have still used planters to good effect where appropriate for example the geranium filled planters at the green pump roundabout at the Celbridge Road. Similarly the filled planters to the paving together with the planting to the building at the garda station softened the hard surface.

The students, teachers, staff and parents at Scoil Chearbhaill UiDhalaigh have also used planters to good effect at their Gaelteacht. Ní mholtar boinn a úsáid mar choimeádáin do phlandaí.

Last year's adjudicator admired the planting at the Church and again this is the case this year with the added comment that the planting at the grotto and the entrance to the parish centre at the back of the church were well maintained and looked after. The inclusion of some unusual tree species from the Tree Trail in the church grounds added to this green space.

The planter canoe overlooking the river and the Boat House was well filled but the boat might be in danger of collapse unless some remedial work is undertaken.

The buddleia at the Louisa Bridge at the station was living up to it's name as the butterfly bush on the very sunny day of the inspection visit. The green space across the Accommodation Road from the Louisa Bridge car-park offers some opportunity for some planting.

It is very obvious that Leixlip Tidy Towns are taking appropriate measures to ensure that there is colour in the many flowerbeds to be seen throughout your town, and that you are making sure to plant seasonal flowers, but please try to include as many pollinator friendly plants as you can.

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.
Leixlip Tidy Towns have been one of the early groups in progressing the preparation of a local biodiversity plan and the implementation of the plan is currently under way.
It is noted that the Kildare County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 specifically mentions the issue of pollution in the Rye River at Leixlip. The River Rye Water is an important spawning river for brown trout and a key spawning channel for a highly sensitive population of Atlantic salmon within the River Liffey catchment area. The Biodiversity Way panel on the Rye River Walk prepared by the Friends of the Rye as well as the ongoing studies carried out with the support of sponsors is an excellent example of how Tidy Towns can act as advocates and effect meaningful change for a town and the wider society.
The Leixlip Tree Trail has already been noted in this report but the planting of 70 trees is an excellent achievement.
We would recommend continued engagement with the recently appointed Council's Biodiversity Officer, this will prove to be a great resource for you and all the stakeholders to draw on.
Your engagement with the various citizen science programmes and your collection of surveys will provide accurate and current data and information relating to the health of of the ecosystems.
The provision and installation of bird and bat boxes in the Leixlip locality is very welcome. To care for a bird box it should be cleaned out annually between October and November, use boiling water instead of harsh chemicals, and avoid disturbing active nests during the spring and summer.
In addition to additional planting at your community orchard you have ambitious plans for work at the Rye River and Rye Bridge, and also at the Royal Canal Greenway
You have set yourselves very high standards but your record strongly suggests that your group will yet again deliver.

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.
In your submission for 2026 Leixlip Tidy Towns have reviewed your activities by referring to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and demonstrating by your actions and operations how you are following best practice.
You note for example the use of water butts, your membership of the Sustainable Energy Community and the promotion of active travel in your community as measures that move Leixlip in the direction of increased sustainability.
The principle of a circular economy model involves sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.
The extensive Recycling Centre at the Lidl at Station Road was in good condition and was fully operational on the day of adjudication. It would be interesting to find out if there is any data available in relation to the amount of waste collected at the recycling centre.
It is also very encouraging to know that the local business corporations have taken on board the message of leaving areas unmown and promoting wildflower meadows. The existence of wildflowers leads to insects leads to birds and all leading towards sustainable wildlife corridors. Your promotion of grass and leaf recycling and mulching also helps this process.
You have noted that the opening of the Royal Canal Greenway from Cope Bridge towards Maynooth in late 2025 has allowed increased opportunity for active travel, hopefully the full opening of the Greenway in the near future will

be truly transformative for a lot of commuters and leisure cyclists.
The Part 8 Notice for the proposed active travel scheme including the provision of a cycle way at Captains Hill is also another indication of the increased move to sustainability. One of the most interesting aspects of a visit to Leixlip is the fact that there has been investment in a number of cycle-ways particularly on the outskirts of the town. There has also been provision for some bus-lanes and the town has a number of bus-stops at regular intervals. The installation of solar panels at Scoil Chearbhaill UiDhalaigh is also noted as is the installation of a number of EV charging points including at the railway station car-park and the innovation placing of a phone charging points at the smart seat.
Last but not least, the promotion of the Community Orchard [looks like a very good crop of apples this year] and similar ventures such as allotments is a step in the direction of food security and healthy eating using local produce without air-miles attached.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Leixlip Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and other stakeholders including a number of very active sponsors have ensured that the town and the adjacent river and park trail have a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
You have included in your submission photographs of instances where graffiti has been identified and removed. The Scout Den in particular has made a great recovery.
There were some exceptions noted to the generally high standard of litter control, there was some evidence of anti-social behaviour and litter left behind in the verges and hedges at the steps down the Old Hill, but this minor littering was very much the exception to the rule in Leixlip and surrounds. The redundant telephone box at the Credit Union also remains on the to-do list.
Your ongoing work in maintaining the critical roundabouts is also noted.
Congratulations on your work and also the wider community including the Council on the total effort.

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

As you have noted Leixlip is a rapidly developing town with many new estates taking root. One of the issues for existing estates is that the access for the new developments is often through the exciting occupied housing - hopefully the disruption and disturbance caused is temporary and will be minimised by the considerate contractors and developers.
The re-commencement of your Best Kept Estate competition together with the inclusion of awards for shop fronts and the like is welcome, it is the general experience of other towns that some friendly local rivalry raises all boats. The residents and community of Leixlip continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
Oaklawn and Cedar Park were typical 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 with trees in the estate were well looked after. It was noted that some new trees had been recently planted to the verges, properly staked and tied. The verge and entrance stone to Knockaulin estate are very well planted with green cover to the screen walls.
Your entry highlights the fact that the housing at Ryevale enjoys the considerable advantage of being placed in the remnants of a woodland demesne and the presence of mature trees would add to any estate.
In addition to the elimination of litter and graffiti, the continued upgrading and maintenance of trees, grassed areas and planting programmes all make an essential difference to any locality./
The Tidy Towns communication and co-ordination with the various residents associations can only enhance the common good.

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

Initial entrance to Leixlip by the adjudicator was by way of the R418 from Maynooth with the Intel campus on the left hand side. The landscaping work to the campus and the entrance has to be complimented - it requires a significant effort over time to deliver this entrance. Some of the taller flower planting at the Leixlip sign is slightly obscuring the sign. The stone effect painting of the utility cabinets is excellent. It would appear that the Tidy Towns have a good relationship with Intel and it is acknowledged that the company has made a significant contribution to the overall appearance of the town and it's environment.

Leixlip has made every effort to present a very welcoming and tidy appearance to visitors through the works at the various roundabouts, the bridges, and the entrances by working on the verges, the hedges, the walls and railings. The canal greenway entrance and both railway stations serving Leixlip are also maintained. The planting and shrub beds were also pleasing.

Your submission highlights the provision for outdoor dining at the bottom of the Captains Hill road. While this presents challenges to every town and needs to be managed, it will encourage increased pedestrian traffic and result in increased footfall for all businesses in the town. The Leixlip experience has proven successful to date.
A lot of fantastic work has been completed with planting, including shrub beds and trees on the approach roads.

The approach roads into Leixlip are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained. The cycle lanes and bus lanes allowed alternatives to the car as the preferred mode of transport.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of your town and the work the committee has carried out. It is

fully appreciated that maintaining and improving developing towns presents special and unique challenges. The scale and scope of the work and projects of the very well organised and focussed Leixlip Tidy Towns group is recognised and applauded, well done to all.