Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Milltown - Baile an Mhuilinn**	Ref:	**378**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**361**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**29/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	53
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	23	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	44
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**345**	**361**

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.

Thank you to Milltown Tidy Towns for submitting an excellent entry to the 2026 National Tidy Towns Competition. You have now been entering the competition since 2014.

The quality of your submission together with your annotated colour coded map of the village and your 2026-2029 Project Plan is excellent. In particular the quality of your thumbnail photographs gives the adjudicator a great picture of your many activities and projects during the year. The award winning photograph of a winter scene at the canal stands out -congratulations to the photographer.

For 2026, Tidy Towns have entered into Category B Village population between 201 and 1000.
Your Tidy Towns team has 6 active committee members and 10 volunteers who work regularly on your projects. You are also supported by a number of CE workers in helping keep your town in good condition.

You have highlighted that many agencies and voluntary organisations have contributed to the Milltown 2026 submission. You have also mentioned the help received from the pupils, teachers and parents of Scoil Bhride, the players and members of Milltown GAA Club, the local Foroige group, the Heritage Group, and the Milltown Parish, and the local businesses including David's Shop, The Inn@Milltown, and Ken Eustace Landscaping.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Milltown 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 use a range of traditional and social media to keep contact with your community. Your presentation of your methods of communication covers all possibilities and is well set out.

On the day of the visit, works were starting on Scoil Bhride and also at The Hanged Man's Bar and Restaurant at the canal bridge on the R415 Kildare Road. The bridge wall remains damaged but hopefully will be repaired in the near future.

There is a strong sense of community in the village and surroundings.

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

Milltown is a typical ribbon development with your main areas of activity centred around the junction of the R415 running from Kildare to Allenwood, and the R416 from Newbridge. The R415 route includes a single arch stone bridge built in the 1800's over the Milltown Branch of the Grand Canal.
The main buildings in the village are the neat and tidy St. Brigid's Church, the white-washed Heritage and Parish Office, both built in the 1800's, the Scoil Bhride National School, original building in 1926, subsequently extended in the 1980's, the local David's Shop, the Inn@Milltown, and further out of town The Hanged Man's Pub, and Mill Ruins alongside the canal.
There is a combination of small housing estates and one-off modern housing including a playschool and Kingdom Hall of the Jehovah's Witnesses congregation, all tidy and in good condition. The local Milltown GAA club facility including it's club house and dressing rooms is set back from the R416 and is approached through an avenue between housing. The walls to the avenue are decorated with a fine mural marking Milltown winning the Leinster Junior Championship in 2023.
The local graveyard is located in the church grounds, which also includes a remembrance garden and a famine pot beside the heritage centre. The village also has a 1916 commemorative garden and the village corner which had a Failte go Baile An Mhuillinn sign from Milltown Tidy Towns & Heritage. The community uses the village corner to mark the holidays and events of the year.
The currently closed Hanged Man's Bar at the canal bridge on the R415 Kildare Road and the Milltown Mill are out of town landmarks.

Milltown has done very well to keep most of it's historic heritage intact while becoming a very enjoyable village to live in or visit.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

In the village the many green spaces being looked after by the Tidy Towns include the prominent village corner and the water pump surrounds, even though this corner is not strictly a green space it is very well landscaped, good shrubbery and great flower colour.
The 1916 commemorative garden between Fenview Gardens and the entrance to the Milltown GAA club is one of your flagship projects and is excellent, the planted trees are in good condition, the mountain ash trees were full of berries on the date of inspection. Some of the ground planting needs to be cut back and regular weeding is also necessary so as to maintain the quality. The paths also need to be maintained so as to prevent mosses and weeds taking a hold.
The graveyard and the church grounds are very well looked after, indeed on the day of inspection there were a number of workers in action, this is a fitting memorial for those who have gone, with a number of memorials - it is noted that the graveyard expansion is under way.
At Millview there is very good planting at the estate sign (the bench here might be in need of redecoration) and particularly excellent planting on the stone wall surround to the flag poles as well as ground shrubbery.
You have also brought some colour to the village by having numerous planters placed at key positions, the tiered planters at the school were very impressive, as were the window boxes to the Heritage Centre. As mentioned previously the use of perennials is always encouraged.

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.
All the evidence shows that living in a greener environment promotes and protects the good health of a community. As the previous adjudicator has noted, Milltown is especially fortunate in that it is located in a rural area complete with trees, hedges, and stone walls and also with a canal waterway and Mauds Bog all within relatively easy access of the village. You are also close to Pollardstown Fen which is an SAC, unfortunately it is closed at present. You have a wealth of nature and biodiversity on your doorstep and your entry reflects your good fortune, The quality of the photographs included in your submission in this section are excellent as is the message that Milltown and surrounds are havens for red squirrels and solitary bees and all that is necessary for ecosystems to thrive.
Your work at the picnic area at the canal including the excellent signage and the wheel holding great flower boxes and benches and the bug hotel and the board showing off the prize winning photo of the canal in winter are all helping with the enjoyment of your environment. Well done also to Waterways Ireland for their work in helping the canal become a treasure of bird life by following a nature-friendly approach to their maintenance works.
The importance of hedgerows to nature cannot be underestimated, most of the hedgerows in Ireland were planted in the 1700's and have unfortunately not been properly valued. Well done to the residents of Millview on looking after their native whitethorn hedge. Also well done to the GAA club on the planting of their new hedge which will also include whitetorn and also beech, birch, hazel, and silverbirch.
In addition to improving the appearance of the village and the pitch surrounds at the club, the hedges provide wildlife corridors and habitats, and food for birds and fauna they control flooding, improving water quality and act a carbon store.
Your promotion of biodiversity walks for your young people can only lead to further interest and participation in protecting and promoting our important local and national asset.
You have also mentioned that participants in the Dermot Early Youth Leadership Initiative have built and positioned bird boxes in Milltown. Please remember to clean out the boxes annually between October and November, don't use harsh chemicals, and apologies for stating the obvious but avoid disturbing active nests during the spring and summer.

It was truly a great experience to take a walk on Milltown's wild side.

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.
This adjudicator was impressed by the polytunnel at the Millview estate and the contents inside, growing our own food locally is one of the most sustainable actions that any community can undertake and will result in reduced air miles from growing to plate, and will generally be healthier and taste better. There was also a compost spot behind the polytunnel which if properly managed will help future production. It was good to learn that the waste from the school also ends up in the school compost bin, well done again to the school.
While you have previously planted native trees there is scope for the introduction of some additional orchard trees that might be considered.
The Milltown submission is very strong in relation to the recycling of existing materials and products for as long as possible, thanks largely to the efforts of the Milltow GAA club who are a member of the Green Clubs programme. In addition to the very many successful initiatives hosted by the club including the Re-turn and Clothes Recycing bins, the recycling of club gear and merchandise is one of the most sustainable actions that any sports club can undertake. There is no good reason as why so many jerseys and tops and boots end up in landfill after a year or two of wear, Maith thú, coinnigh leis sin.
Your can-eating fish by the canal is another great initiative - it was interesting to see how well fed this particular fish was, it is obviously working.
The GAA club is also taking measures to reduce it's energy bills and the use of water butts at the school and the Church are also leading the way for the community.
The availability of public transport in Milltown and the introduction of a safe zone to the national school should encourage active travel including cycling to the school, all welcome actions in helping reduce harmful carbon emissions. While there are some safety concerns regarding cycling, it is a fact that the more people cycle in a neighbourhood the safer it becomes and pupils who cycle become more independent and less car-dependent.
It is impressive to see that your community is making many efforts to promote your local circular economy, and there is a lot of help available to an ambitious and far-seeing community such as Milltown to keep moving in the sustainable direction.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Milltown Tidy Towns volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and the CE workers and other stakeholders including the very active GAA Club volunteers have ensured that your village has an excellent standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
There are plenty of litter bins in the village and also at the picnic area and all were empty and available for use. Generally the paths and roads and outside of the shop and inn and school were clear of litter. There was no evidence of any dog fouling which is an issue for a lot of towns and villages - further evidence of the civic pride that people have in your town.
The Village Loop walk along the canal was also in very good condition.
Thank you to all who have worked to keep Milltown tidy and in good shape.

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

Judging by the homes and small estates it is obvious that the residents are actively committed to the aims of the Tidy Towns in keeping their houses and gardens and shared public spaces in excellent condition.
The Millview estate has it's well deserved pride of place award prominently displayed and it will be no surprise if it wins the award again. The excellent Fenview Heights and The Cottages are also very well looked after by the residents, most of the homes had very well maintained frontage, with freshly painted boundaries and gates and colourful gardens, some homes had full flower boxes and the occasional hanging baskets. The green spaces throughout were excellent, some with very good tree cover.
If possible residents should be encouraged to mow their grass less often, a 6-week mowing cycle allows clovers and daisies to return, especially early in the year, thus providing essential food for our native pollinators. In the absence of long grass the bug hotels will have no bugs.
If not already under way, it is recommended that the new residents in Kestrel Park should be made aware of the work of the Tidy Towns group and be invited to become active in joining your great community.
Finally well done to the board, parents, teachers and pupils of Scoil Bhríde and also the owner of David's Shop and the Heritage Centre who have kept up the appearances of the town - truly a collective effort.

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

The three main approach roads, the R415 running from Kildare, the R415 running from Allenwood, and the R416 from Newbridge, all into Milltown are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained.

As mentioned above, the damaged stone bridge over the canal needs to be repaired, that particular point is a narrow pinch point but in effect it actually acts as a traffic calming measure. The future works to the Hanged Man's premises here will also add to the potential hazard here for pedestrian's, cyclists and vehicles.

Road surfaces are generally in good condition and there are traffic calming measures in place close to the school.

All approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges and well maintained hedgerows.

The “Welcome to Milltown” signs had excellent planted surrounds and present a very good initial image of a very well cared for town.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of Milltown and the work the whole Milltown Tidy Towns community has carried out over many years including 2025 and 2026.

Keep up the good work and thank you.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.