Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Monasterevin - Mainistir Eimhín**	Ref:	**379**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**374**
Category:	**E**	Date(s):	**15/07/2026**

	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	47	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	48	50
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	28	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	45	47
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	37
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**357**	**374**

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 Monasterevin Tidy Towns CLG for again taking part in the National Tidy Towns competition, your participation is very much appreciated.
For 2026, Monasterevin Tidy Towns have entered into Category E Large Town population between 5001 and 10000.
You have a very interesting organisational structure using a Board of Directors with 5 directors and an external adviser who oversee the finances and the organisation of the limited company, and the Board meets monthly.
The Tidy Towns core group of 10 volunteers are very well supplemented and assisted by up to 58 volunteers for community events, the substantial weekly contribution of the St. Paul's Transition Year Students and the Teachers, and the regular support of many other groups, including the Monasterevin Hub group.
You have a very international group, with new volunteers signing up during the year, always a very good sign for an active group. The social aspect of Tidy Towns is very much part of what Tidy Towns groups do.

Monasterevin Tidy Towns has good relationships and communicates regularly with many of the other groups in the town.
Your presentation of your impressive list of local supporters is very clear and concise, thank you, and also acknowledgement and thank you to the very many and very diverse clubs, associations, voluntary organisations, agencies, businesses, and advisory groups who have helped out in so many ways.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Monasterevin, 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.
In particular, your entry specifically highlights the essential work of the 5 Monasterevin Community Employment Workers in keeping your town looking so well.

You have a very strong and proactive communications strategy that includes a very popular Facebook page, with numbers increasing. The use of reusable posters is excellent, well done there.

From the examples in your submission you know how to showcase all the work that you are carrying out.

Your document is excellent but at 51 pages, even including the excellent photographs, and graphics, it is overly detailed. You might consider reviewing your documents for duplication and repetition and also for items that might be dated. Please also note that there is a 500 word limit in each category so please adhere to this request in future submissions.

The submitted map was very useful for the adjudicator, but given the amount of detail shown it was somewhat cluttered and difficult to follow

You have also included a detailed plan of action for 2026-208 setting out future main areas of activity.

You have successfully taken part in the national Tidy Towns competition for 30 years.
Finally, congratulations to volunteer Pat on her winning the Community Award for her work over the years. Well done.

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

Monasterevin lies directly on the River Barrow and the Barrowline branch of the Grand Canal, which explains it's historic roots, and is also served and has a station on the Dublin-Cork mainline rail. The M7 motorway is in close proximity to the town. The older R445 route remains as the main entrance to the town, entering the Dublin Road. It is situated between Portarlington and Kildare
Over the last 20 years the population has increased dramatically as it expands rapidly as a commuter town.
Your submission offers an update of the proposed developments planned for the town including the very exciting proposed acquisition of the Moore Abbey House and estate from the Sisters of Charity, and the more modest but also exciting funding for the Market Square redevelopment off Main Street.
The Moore Abbey House estate is only 1 km from the town centre on the Athy Road and offers great potential for the future of the town and residents. The building itself is of considerable architectural merit and the involvement of Tidy Towns in the proposed masterplan is very welcome.
The town centre at Monasterevin is a very interesting collection of public buildings and space, all bounded by the Barrow and the Grand Canal. The thumbnail photographs included in your entry proudly set out your extraordinarily rich heritage.
In common with many other towns Monasterevin suffers from some dereliction and vacancy in the town, particularly with some of the prominent buildings on Dublin Street including terrace of houses and formerly grand 5-storey stone building, and surrounds. It would also be a shame if the very fine end of terrace 3-storey corner building at West End deteriorated further. As you noted Kildare County Council maintains an official register of neglected properties under the Derelict Sites Act and has issued Compulsory Purchase Orders.
However, and much more positively, it was very encouraging to see some new developments and regeneration projects under way in the town, particularly on prominent sites. For example, work was under way at the new Textile Hub at Market Square and it was clear that many shop fronts were new or refurbished, Market Square Premises for example was very pleasing as mentioned in your submission.
In addition to the streetscape highlights referred to in your entry, some of the buildings in Monasterevin included the modern Credit Union Building, the fine period Presentation Convent Monasterevin House and the Gothic Style Church of Ireland on Main Street, which is somewhat hidden from view by the section of high stone wall. The Catholic Church of St. Peter and Paul is very interesting in that the spires from the original design were never built.
The streets of Monasterevin are good to walk, Main Street running alongside the Barrow and the Canal Harbour Road are especially memorable.
In terms of street furniture and ornamentation, the vintage petrol pumps and the neighbouring sculptures at the Hopkins Garden, together with the Prendergast Monument and the "Happy to Chat" bench all make for a memorable visit.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Riverside Park is a great amenity to have in the town and it is no surprise that Tidy Towns have made significant efforts to maintain the park in such good condition. The findings of your good weather survey will make for very interesting reading, hopefully you will be able to update the data and findings and recommendations in your 2027 submission.
The photographs and the reality of your flowerbeds are testament to your great work and demonstrate your expertise in horticultural matters.
You have also completed significant work relating to benches, bins, flower pots, and railings all which enhanced the public green spaces.
Similarly it will be interesting to hear about your progress with the Orchard for Nature project together with the help of Waterways Ireland.
The contrast between the Meadow Garden and the near adjacent Lady Drogheda's Garden bears witness to the versatility of the Monasterevin community in delivering such diverse spaces, both excellent uses of space in different ways.
That stretch of gardens along Main Street leading down to the Barrow is very welcome, Hopkins Garden in particular looked very inviting.
The work of the Tidy Towns in removing the invasive speciesJapanese Rose / Rosa Rugosa and Spanish Bluebells from the Main Street Gardens and also from the graveyard is every bit as important as the planting and maintenance of native perennials. Thank you for this largely unseen but essential work.
The green spaces and landscaping at the Canal and also along the Barrow way add greatly to the town.
Even though it is not developed in the same way as the other green spaces in the town the Monasterevin AFC facility at Togher Road is in excellent condition as is the Monasterevin GAA clubhouse and pitch at Fr. Prendergast

Park. The sports clubs of the town are often the most energetic in wanting the best for their town or village and will be enthusiastic in working with the Tidy Towns. They might even be persuaded to leave some room for the pollinators, or use water butts.
Finally mention must be made of the excellent planters distributed throughout the town, including at the aqueduct. They have brought real colour to the strategic spots in the town. If it was possible, additional planters to the hard surface to the front of the Council Hall and to the parking areas of the railway station would be very welcome.
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.
Discovering Moore Abbey Wood off the R417 as part of Monasterevin's surrounds has been a major find for this adjudicator, it might have helped that the weather was particularly fine on the day of the visit but the mixed woodlands and the trails and indeed The Woodstock Cafe, (which you have referred to in your Sustainability category) will definitely be visited again, it was a definite highlight.
It is no surprise that you are using this fantastic amenity to promote a greater appreciation of nature and biodiversity - well done on the "Rewild Your Child" flagship project, and also your Barrow Bluebell Family Day, and what a wonderful setting to host such events.
Your engagement with a number of citizen science programmes and your collection of data and sampling will provide accurate and current data and information relating to cowslips and swifts. Unfortunately the results are not always what we would like to see, as you rightly point out nature is under pressure on a number of fronts. It is suggested that you seek advice before you invest in a call system for the swifts, it is recommended that you engage with the Council's appointed Biodiversity Officer, this will prove to be a great resource for you to avail on a number of fronts.
The planting and maintenance of trees is part of the essential response to protecting our nature and biodiversity, planting the right tree, preferably a native tree, in the right place is the most critical decision for tree growers and selecting species that are well-suited to the site's conditions and soil type ensures that the trees will thrive, providing shelter, food and habitats for whole ecosystems. The presence of trees alongside the Canal and the Barrow as seen in Monasterevin will help keep the water cool and encourage fishlife to prosper. Well done to the tree planters at Scoil Eimhin Naofa - the new trees hopefully will prosper and join the excellent line of mature trees on Drogheda Street.
Monasterevin Tidy Towns have embraced the need to promote nature and biodiversity in the town and surrounds, and you have the right environment to be ambitious. Good luck on your journey.

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.
As with your 2025 entry, you have identified a number of projects with a wide scope that are helping move Monasterevin to a more sustainable path, well done for bringing the 2025/2026 projects together for this submission. You have listed out so many contributions and actions that this report will not make comment on each and every one, but each initiative is very welcome and great ideas and energy is coming from the wider Monasterevin sustainable community.
It is very encouraging that you have managed to associate social events and fun such as the St. Patrick's Day parade, the Bluebell Family Fun Day and the Gordon Bennett stop-over with the sustainability message.
The Monasterevin Tidy Towns commitment to sustainability as set down in your submission is a brilliant synopsis of your plan and intentions.
It is also very encouraging that the drive for sustainability has been taken on board by your local businesses, from the local retail outlets providing recycling facilities, the Tirlan Garden Centre Free to Take initiative, the Willoughby's Hardware Course (brilliant idea) , the Evergreen Agricultural Enterprises building a biomethane plant and not forgetting the charity shops in the town who also have fully embraced the principle of a circular economy.
In so many of your activities, Monasterevin is sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.
The schools in Monasterevin are also very much engaged in helping the town become an example for other towns in Kildare and further afield.
Also, well done to Supervalu and Fitzpatrick's Garage for their work in helping bottle and can return scheme which has resulted in a significant drop off in littering, St. Vincent De Paul Shop, Monasterevin and Surrounds Freecycle Website, Monasterevin Women's Shed, Just Runs Events, and the Monasterevin Food Bank (supported by Supervalu and Gala Kildangan, the Monasterevin Credit Union and Circle K, Rathangan Road), and the TFI for the Local Link route offering sustainable travel alternatives for Monasterevin, and the other businesses and groups too numerous to mention.
Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Monasterevin Tidy Towns and the many volunteers and groups together with the CE workers and other stakeholders including a number of very active bunsinesses have worked hard to ensure that Monasterevin has a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
You have approached the work in a methodical and ordered fashion with a daily litter picking the town and a weekly clean up of the town's outer areas, Grand Canal walks, Moore Abbey Wood on a weekly basis, and a monthly

cleanup of the main approach roads.
Along with many other Tidy Towns groups, you have undertaken to maintain three kilometres of roadside verge in the town and outlying area under the very successful KCC “Green Kilometre” initiative, which you complete on a weekly or monthly basis depending on circumstances.
This is a very high level of commitment for a town of your size - well done to your group.
The contribution of students in particular the transition year students over the year is remarkable.
Over the year the students spent 3 weeks cleaning up and removing graffiti in the children's play park, they took part in the Spring Clean, and in particular the very extensive Market Square and Dublin Street Spring Clean which included a thorough cleaning of the signs, bollards and assorted street furniture.
Special word of mention to the Monasterevin Blueway Kayaking Club who received a Community Impact Award at the LAMA and National Community Awards for their litter pick at the Grand Canal.
There was very little litter or debris either in the canal or on the paths running along side on the day of adjudication although there was some minor debris and litter in the stream running alongside Drogheda Street.
Tidy Towns have also cut back and trimmed the overgrown vegetation on Main Street and Drogheda Street. You have been proactive in tackling the dog fouling issue and also you have taken a role in monitoring and communicating any issues relating to the overflowing of bins and bottle banks.
It is very very encouraging for you to be able to confirm that litter levels are reduced in all areas of Monasterevin, well done.

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

The work of the Monasterevin Tidy Towns in 2025 and 2026 in relation to the housing estates is primarily related to providing information and advice which can be used by the residents to improve their own housing areas. In particular you have made the residents aware of the availability of local authority grants which can be applied for by the residents. You also use your Facebook Page to encourage local Residents and Home Owners to undertake sustainable and biodiversity friendly activities in their area.
As part of the drive to promote a green agenda you have donated 400 mixed spring bulbs to the new estate at Brocan Wood Estate, which is an excellent start in making contact with new residents and potential future volunteers.
While you have noted that some of the new housing estates do not yet have Residents Associations, it is your intention to liaise with Residents Associations and to offer assistance and support in the drive to maintain high standards in all the areas of Monasterevin.
It is acknowledged that it can be difficult to keep pace with the changes and needs of a developing community.
As the previous adjudicator has suggested, other Tidy Towns groups have initiated friendly competition between estates so as to motivate and acknowledge the efforts of residents for their efforts.
In general, the housing estates of Monasterevin were in good condition and well maintained. For example the approximately 20 2-storey houses set back in 3 terraces in a semi-curve at Drogheda Street around a green space had well maintained frontages, with many of the houses having colourful gardens and some with flower boxes. The green space with trees to the front and white bollards to the paths was well maintained.

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

The approach roads into Monasterevin are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained.

The welcome sign on the R445 coming from Portlaoise direction was somewhat obscured by overgrown vegetation.

A lot of good work was in evidence, such as the ox-eye daisies planted and the path improvement works at New Lodge Cross.

It is a pleasant entrance from the Dublin Road side, with stone wall one side, housing and the Garda Station on the other all leading to the town entrance.

The car park area at the railway station was tidy and litter free on the day of the inspection visit with adequate provision for bike parking.

There is a regular flow of traffic in and through the town but it appeared that the traffic calming measures in place including traffic lights were working.

Concluding Remarks:

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

There are very exciting plans in place on a number of fronts to improve this already vibrant town

Tidy Towns CLG are doing very good work helping to retain the heritage of the town while at the same time planning and developing to cater for your expanding population.

Keep up the good work and thank you.