Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Naas - Nás Na Riogh**	Ref:	**382**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**409**
Category:	**H**	Date(s):	**22/06/2026**
			26/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	59	60
Streetscape & Public Places	80	51	53
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	55	57
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	52	53
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	29	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	43	44
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**398**	**409**

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 am familiar with Naas, this was my first visit to Naas in the role of adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition

You have been entering the Tidy Towns competition since 1958, a truly remarkable legacy of commitment. Congratulations on your wining the IBAL 2025 prize for Ireland's Best Kept Large Urban Centre, well done to all concerned.
Your entry opens with a great cover photograph of a happy team at work that was evident through your whole presentation.
Thank you for submission your comprehensive 64 pages with a very helpful Contents page, a map and a 5-Year Plan.
While you have kept to the word count guidance of the Tidy Towns competition you have included a lot of information, particularly by including an interactive map. Well done Mick O'Donnell. Some of the references used might not align with the particular description.
Your submission also includes graphic representation tracking the scoring of other similarly ambitious towns in the competition. It is also that noted that you have reached out to the tidy towns groups in other counties and offered your advice and support - it is a competition but it is also a national movement of like-minded communities - you have captured the spirit.
Given the large town status and resident population of Naas together with the particular challenges of being a county town and commuter town you need to have significant resources in place to make a meaningful impact.
Your 12 active committee members with designated roles and a very impressive core 85 volunteers work on your projects from all sectors of the community have certainly delivered. In particular you have highlighted the overlap with the very active Naas Biodiversity Group. Your submission also names and pays respect to 2 of your long-standing volunteers who are no longer with you but have been part of your journey - gone but not forgotten, well done.
You have emphasised that many organisations and numerous committed individuals have contributed to programm of work in your submission. Thank you to all, too many to mention but the contribution of the People of Naas in fund-raising has been essential.
Amongst others you have been supported by Joe Mallon Motors, the Life Credity Union, the Naas Lions Club, Kildare Islamic Community, Turbett Leisure, Tuckmill Gallery and a significant number of your retailers who helped by providing an outlet for Christmas card sales.

Also mentioned were the local businesses who rolled up their sleeves to pick litter or adopted a patch. Well done State Street, Kerry Foods, Green Isle Foods, Osprey Hotel, Life Credit Union, Klohn Crippen Berger and IAASA. Engagement with the local schools, and youth clubs,together with the other voluntary groups is essential to working effectively in a lively town the size of Naas. Particular word of mention to the brilliantly named No Name Club on their helping in the clean-ups.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare 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 are also using social media communicate effectively with the community.
Your submission highlights as your prime projects the purchase of your replacement van, a significant contribution by the whole community, and the Failte Forest Phase 2 honouring the contribution of your very international community - it is very fitting that this forest is adjacent to the general hospital.

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

The centre of Naas is a striking collection of public buildings and space, including the court house, admired by Thackery back in his day, the church buildings, and hotels and retail units. Congratulations to the parish of St. David's Church on their forthcoming bicentennial in 2027. The church grounds are an oasis of calm in the busy town.
The acquisition and re-purposing and re-development of your former town centre as Naas Library will add another layer of architectural heritage to your array of classic public buildings on Main Steet.
Your modern Council offices Aras Chill Dara and ground are also very striking. The mature trees lining the building offered some shade on very sunny day of adjudication.
Naas has an interesting collection of public art and statues from the wooden sculpture of Cathair Mor to the sculpture of Trumpets at the green space at the fire station to the John Devoy statue.
You have a collection of public seating and benches and also different types of bicycle racks scattered throughout out the town. The heart shaped bike racks are certainly unique. Some of the road and paths were marked for future works and improvements. The seating and tables were well used on the day of visit.
With the volume of traffic and pedestrian there is a vey limited green spaces in the town centre and there is a heavy reliance on planters, which were all flowering, in good colour and obviously watered and maintained. The planters to the railings at the Presbyterian Church were particularly eye-catching.
Good job by Tidy Towns on the Market Square bus-stop litter bin. In addition to keeping up your maintenance tasks, your work in fighting dereliction and unnecessary obstacles to pedestrians is also key to your vision. Finally congratulations on winning the Fleetwood Community Colours prize - the prize is well deserved and will be well used.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your 2026 submission notes the works completed recently including the opening up of the DeBurgh estate as a public green space, and the installation of new seating to the Lakes. The DeBurgh estate is a real addition to your green spaces, close to Tandy's Bridge and offers great opportunity for walking and connecting to the canal greenways.
You have also highlighted the greenways distributed throughout Naas, especially the cycleways and walking alongside the canal - it is certainly a great effort to keep the greenways and your parklands including the extensive Monread Park and the Harbour in good condition. You have correctly identified the canal as the true hidden treasure of Naas, it is a wonderful discovery for all. Some of the Wildlife in Naas Canal signs are showing signs of age. The Maths Week Puzzles in the Park certainly presented a challenge to the casual passer by in the park.
The work to the planters throughout the town and the raised planting areas at the John Devoy statue and the entrance to the Mercy Convent Primary School have resulted in wonderful displays of colour. The use of native perennials is particularly encouraged.
There was a bicycle and basket and tricolour in the raised bed at Poplar Square whose purpose was not clear.
Thank you for the work in keeping all the green spaces distributed through your town so well maintained and attractive for all.
Again you have improved on your previous high score in this category.

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.
You have identified your liaison with Naas Biodiversity Group and the partnership with Sooil Bhride as delivering your significant biodiversity projects for 2026.
The planting of trees pocket forest at Finlay Park in Dec. 2025 and the tree planting programme at Scoil Bhride will greatly add to our enjoyment of Naas in the future for many years. Well done to the 150 students who and teachers, parents and mentors who took part in the programme. Special word of mention for the Scoil Bhride New issue nr. 5, hopefully the newsletter will come back again.
It was also encouraging to spot Bees at Work and We are feeding the Bees signs in the housing estates - the biodiversity message is being heard in Naas.
Perhaps deliberately, your submission did not identify the location of your bee-hives, trust the honey is delivered and collected. Unfortunately there was no sighting of the church steeple peregrine falcon on this adjudicator's visit - hopefully next time. Access was not gained to the Luisine Gardens but the photographs look very good.

The Harbour Biodiversity Garden would be improved by some more regular maintenance and care. Congratulations to the Youth Group on their planting across the Harbour, it looked great but it might be best if tyres are not used as planters, they sometimes leach but having said that that corner of the stone building really adds to the overall scene.
Your 5-year plan 2024-2028 sets out very ambitious targets under this heading, especially in respect of tree planting and you are well on your way to delivery, excellent work by a very committed group.

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.
The constant message for sustainability is to reduce, recycle and reuse.
You have identified a number of local initiatives under this heading including participating in a number of events, (well done to Life Credit Union for hosting), autumn fruit swaps, and recycling letters to Santa. It was encouraging to see the significant number of homes that have had solar panels installed.
Especially interesting was your ongoing monitoring of air quality - an increasingly critical issue for all towns. Pollution, whether it's from the human or animal population is a major pressure on the natural environment. The research delivered by your citizen science will allow future informed decisions.
Well done to the students of St. Mary's College and the Men's Shed volunteers and mentors who have worked in their polytunnels during the year - the issue of food security is increasingly coming to the fore - the lessons and experience gained in the polytunnels will be life-changing for many.
You also mention the significant amount of re-cycling of glasses and aluminium cans recorded at Council sites - the fall-off in aluminiut cans is very noticeable - presumably the in-shop facilities have taken on this load.
Given the extensive facilities already available you might want to highlight walk and ride options available in future submissions - well done to Dawn Foods on their support of the signage for the developing network, car dependency is not the healthy option. There also appears to be a good public transport bus network in place.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to all the hardy volunteers who undertook the December 2025 clean up of the Canal - Corbally line - the photographs of debris and bags removed is tangible evidence of a great effort.
Naas Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and other stakeholders including a number of local clubs and businesses have ensured that the town continues to have a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
The only exception noted to this high standard was some evidence of minor litter left at Poplar Square. This minor littering was the exception to the rule in Naas and the surrounding areas.
The graveyards visited by the adjudicator were in very good condition with none of the normal debris, discarded wreaths and flowers and the like generally arising in graveyards present
As you note, frequency of clean-up ensures that littering never takes over the public space, and raises awareness of all. It might also be helpful if the dog bag boxes located were refilled.
Naas Tidy Towns remains one of the highest scorers in Kildare under this especially important category.
Congratulations on your work

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

As a rapidly developing town Naas has an interesting mix of old town housing, more recent housing estates and new apartment complexes, and a significant amount of construction under way which brings it's own challenges to any town.
You have specifically mentioned Hollywood Park and Oldtown Demesne in your 2026 submission and both locations were visited. While Hollywood Park has it's Bord Na Mona plaque prominently displayed at the estate entrance, the record of excellence and other titles was very discreetly placed on the green fence [Fig. 72 in your submission] - and this mature estate certainly remains in the prize winning category. The residents of Oldtown Demesne (and in fairness the developers as well) have taken up the challenge of keeping up the high standards.
The newer Elsmore estate was in excellent condition and had some interesting features including the landscaped mound and the stream running through which will may offer assistance in flood control - it may also offer opportunity in the rewilding area. The playground was in full use on the day of the visit.
The overall impression of visiting the communities of Naas is that this town is a very good place to live.

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

This adjudicator's initial entrance to Naas was by way of the Sallins Road, and left by the Dublin Road, travelled around the South Ring Road and also visited the Blessington Road.
There was a high volume of traffic on all of the roads visited, with the South Ring Road offering by-pass alternative routes for HGV's.
The main rail connection for Naas is at Sallins.
You have re-planted the welcome stones using perennial plants, the photographs presented in your submission highlighting your work. You have also included some very useful Before and After photographs of your works on the approach roads ensuring that your approach roads are of a very high standard.
Hopefully your entry for next year will include an update on the new flower bed on the Newbridge Road commenced this year. The other significant improvement in the pipeline for the town is the development currently under way at the gateway site at the Dublin Road.

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 large towns presents special and unique challenges. Over many years, Naas communities have risen to the challenge. Your 2026 Tidy Towns Team have kept up the excellent work.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

Second Round Adjudication:

The visit to Naas for the purpose of a 2nd round adjudication took place on a warm sunny day in late July. Prior to visiting we downloaded your map and read through your application form. We recommend that next year you submit a second map of the central area to a larger scale, as we found it quite difficult to locate some of these projects. Well done on your structural approach to completing the application form. Our one request is that you amend the essay approach in the text and make more use of bullet points to make it easier for adjudicators to read. And remember there is a 500 word limit in each category so please adhere to this.

This summer due to the lack of rain, a lot of grass areas, flower beds and planters were dry/dead in every village and town we visited, but be advised, as TidyTowns adjudicators we make allowances for nature – heat, wind, rain, sleet, whatever nature gives us! You are a Large Urban Centre with over 28,000 people. We were delighted to see that you recognise and celebrate your new residents with their flags proudly displayed on tall timber posts – your Fáilte Forest at the Lakes. These flags add great colour to the beauty of the park – we could see them in the distance.

Your town is a busy commercial centre where those from outside the town as well as residents come and do business. In addition you have your share of visitors due to the proximity of Punchestown Racecourse and Mondello Racetrack. On the day we visited the streets were lined with busy shoppers and visitors, in addition to those strolling along with their dogs. As we walked around we saw quite a number of your Heritage Trail areas/structures. The mural and green wall beside SuperValu are beautiful – good that they are beside the school entrance for the children to see. Around the town are some excellent planting beds – we particularly admired the one on the Blessington Road. Your nature is celebrated at the Lakes and also along your streams. Keep us informed of the Peregrine Falcon activity. It would be great news for your town if one nests in the church spire.

You have a wonderful park in the centre of a large housing area – the Monread Park and also adjacent to the canal you have the De Burgh Park. Here we noted plane (Platanus), horse chestnut (Aesculus), lime (Tilia), young Sorbus trees and unfortunately some dead and dying ash (Fraxinus) trees. There were also many maple (Acer) trees and sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) trees. It would be good to put a discrete information panel on a piece of timber at the base of a selection of these trees informing the public of the name (Latin, Irish and English) and also of the leaf and fruit/nut. This could also become a tree trail for children to follow. Make out a Monread Tree Trail and De Burgh Park Tree Trail and put the information on your website where parents can download them for their children before they take them to the parks. We called to the Luisine Gardens. This is a beautiful quite oasis in Naas. We met one of the residents, Anna, of McAuley Place who very kindly walked around with us. She told us of the hedgehog family, squirrels, fox and kingfisher that she has seen. The garden is extremely beautiful set in mature woodlands with meandering paths and a small pond and the original Nun's gazebo is available for those visiting to sit and relax.

We noted very dirty, and empty, Mutt Mit containers attached to poles in various locations. We suggest these are all removed as they add clutter to you landscape/streetscape. At this stage most responsible dog owners have a roll of plastic bags attached to their dog leads or in their pockets. Those who don't, are those who wouldn't clean up after their dog, and so wouldn't use a Mutt Mit bag. We loved the Harbour Area but the information panel, seats and bollards are extremely dirty and need urgent attention. Many utility boxes were also in need of repainting as these too were quite dirty/rusty. Could they be treated artistically? We admired the 'Just because I carry it well, doesn't mean it isn't heavy' message on one. Themes that relate to Naas could be added to those on the streetscape while those close to planting beds could have a colourful floral theme.

Compliments to KCC on the colours of their signage poles. Black and yellow poles for warning signs, blue and white poles for information about pedestrian and cyclists and black and white poles for directional signs. Your Naas Neighbourhood Greenway is wonderful. Compliments to the litter pick-up team who patrol it every day. In many of the housing estates there are wonderful pedestrian links which give the walkers/runners the opportunity to access areas of the town while avoiding main road traffic hazards.

We admire that you are helping the student's in St. Mary's College to grow vegetables. This is something we feel should be undertaken by every student either in National School or Secondary School so that they see how easy it is to produce really tasty food. Perhaps they will have an Allotment in the future where they can share the information they learnt from you and help others grow vegetables and fruit.

We note that you compare yourself to other centres. Truthfully we don't see the benefit of this as all villages and towns have their own challenges to face which differ from place to place. So a comparison is irrelevant and truthfully not encouraging for your volunteers. Our advice is to enjoy seeing your town's streetscape, landscape, biodiversity and environmental management improve and the pleasure all of this gives to your volunteers and community. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Naas.