Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Narraghmore - An Fhorach Mor**	Ref:	**304**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**307**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**20/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	34	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	27	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	16	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	39
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**292**	**307**

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.

You are very welcome back to the National Tidy Towns Competition, Narraghmore has been a long time entrant in the competition, somewhere between 25 and 30 years, thank you to your Tidy Towns for your excellent submission.

For 2026, Narraghmore Tidy Towns have entered into Catergory B Village population between 201 and 1000. The Tidy Towns Committee is a sub-section of Narraghmore Development Association CLG.

Your current active Tidy Towns of approximately 15 volunteers work regularly on your projects and also work alongside the other active sub-sections of the very progressive Development Association. You are also supported by a CE worker in helping keep your village in good condition.

Narraghmore Development Association and Tidy Towns sub-committee have allowed the full community to be active and invested in their village
In particular the participation of the Foroige Youth Volunteers in your work is outstanding. Great photo of your St. Patrick's Day Float!
You have highlighted that many local businesses, agencies, sports clubs, organisations, resident associations, and numerous committed individuals have contributed to the Narraghmore submission. It is very telling that you have received and been able to maintain the support of the community at large over the years.
Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Narraghmore 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.
The fact that you have access to the Old Hardware Centre, and also to the notice boards of the Credit Union, Mels Gastropub and St. Laurence's GAA Club, is a great advantage for the Tidy Towns in making sure that details of your plans and activities can be communicated effectively to the community.
Based on your submission and on the adjudicator's visit, it is very apparent that all of the community continues to be invested in Narraghmore and the community, and in the work of the Tidy Towns group, well done

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

Narraghmore is centred on a crossroads of the L8016 and the L8019 local routes in Kildare, with a number of

public buildings, clustered across the meeting of the roads, and with a number of modern housing estates also forming the very tidy village.
It is very appropriate that it's name as Gaelige is An Fhorach Mor, which translates to the "Great Place of Assembly" according to one of the panels of the very good information boards placed in the village.
For a relatively small crossroads village Narragmore has a rich architectural heritage, including the very fine former post office, and which is now a private residence, set back slightly from road in own grounds. Also fronting on to the main road is another large 2-storey house which was also a former courthouse which has great potential. This property is currently being maintained by a local volunteer. Hopefully this landmark building for the village will be restored to full use. Another fine building in the village is the private Dispensary house which was originally the police station but has been very well restored and modernised.
The modern buildings in the village all contribute greatly to the social fabric of the village, most notably the Old Hardware building which acts as the community centre and headquarters for the Narraghmore Development Association CLG, also the single storey Kildare Credit Union Building, and the social hub of Narraghmore which is Mel's Gastropub.
The Foroige and Hannah Murphy. mural and explanation note to the Old Hardware building is brilliant - absolutely amazing to put so much information and imagination and thought into one wall, this is one of the best murals this adjudicator has ever seen
It was also encouraging to see that there is some provision for outdoor seating and dining facilities in the village, especially when the weather is kind.
The fine Catholic and Church of Ireland churches serving the Narraghmore congregations are located outside of Narragmore, the first in the nearby village in Crookstown and the second in the former demesne of Narraghmore House.
There are no schools in the village, with the local St. Laurence's National School based in Crookstown being the school for Narraghmore pupils at primary level. However the village has a fine multi-purpose court developed by the community - the submission shows very informative before-and-after photographs of the development.
Narraghmore also has some very unique street furniture including a highly decorated wall plaque set in a boundary wall, the village pump and the more-recent 1798 memorial stone in the centre of the village.
The map included with your submission was not easy to read, it might have been improved if there was an index included referencing your new and maintenance projects.
This adjudicator has never visited Narraghmore before and was very impressed with the village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your primary project for this year was the very interesting and very innovative planter project where 18 families have sponsored a planter where the sponsoring families or households commit to taking care of one of our village flower planters or flower beds over the summer. To add to the interest of the initiative, the sponsored planters or planted areas are numbered and will be judged at the end of the summer. Judging by the planters seen by this adjudicator in July this project and Narraghmore is already a winner with so many of the planters and planted areas looking very well looked after and flowering well. While the preference is for ground planting wherever possible and there is a risk associated with too many planters in this instance Narraghmore appears to have got the balance right.
Your second landmark project for 2025/2026 are your plans for the construction of a Sensory Garden for the community at the rear of the Old Bandhall. You have made some progress in that the lease has been extended and you have engaged a locally based landscape architect to prepare the masterplan for the project. Many tidy towns communities have undertaken similar projects and where delivered they have been very much appreciated by all. These specialist projects take time to get right. However, given the track record and energy of Narraghmore Development shown in previous undertakings such as the sports court, it is reasonable to assume that your 2027 report will be able to present a very positive update. Good luck with this ambitious project for your village.
It appears that you have taken the previous adjudicator's advice in relation to the planting of wildflowers at the Old Hardware.
Given your rural location, and the nature of your surroundings, and especially the generous green spaces in your residential areas the green spaces and landscaping offer significant potential for your community.

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 referred to your local Narraghmore Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2028 in your submission. Congratulations on your foresight in having the Plan prepared.
The Plan recommends annual review [5.3.2, Page 41] and overall review of the plan before it expires [5.3.3, Page 41]
While you have undertaken some actions to deliver the objectives set out in your action plan it might now be opportune to review your plan to see what has been achieved, what is currently under way, and also to see if new objectives or actions can be introduced.
Water is the starting point for all of nature, it keeps us alive and yet it is often undervalued and taken for granted. The use of water butts at the Old Hardware is a practical demonstration of how water is not allowed to go to waste. Your use of a waste composter and your commitment to avoiding the use of pesticides are all very welcome moves to helping the nature and biodiversity of your locality.
Thank you to the builders of the insect hotel, well done. Please remember there are no quick fixes for insect and bee hotels. You need to have food for the bees and the insects and long grass, nettles and dandelions are all great food sources for pollinators.
The Biodiversity Action Plan noted that Narraghmore is lucky to have some keen Citizen Scientists, who have

helped record some of the wildlife in the area. The records have been submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Is there any ongoing studies relating to the ecosystems underway at present? This is a potential area for very positive engagement with Foroige.
You might be interested in putting one or more of the Narraghmore projects on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan map.
You have also a track record of planting trees and hedgerows, which are both essential. Has there been any recent audit of tree and hedgerow condition?
Having the plan available is a great advantage, you have shown great ambition in having the plan prepared - now you know what you have to do to deliver a solid future for nature and biodiversity in your community.

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.
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 savings can be made.
Congratulations of Narraghmore becoming a Sustainable Energy Community, well done. You have launched your energy master plan - it will be very interesting to hear about the projects and opportunities identified to help Narraghmore on the journey to a sustainable future. As you are aware a significant amount of funding is available to help homes and businesses and community groups move away from fossil fuels and to increased use of renewables and all the benefits that brings. It will be interesting to see how many households in Narraghmore move to EV's in the coming years.
The use of water butts has already been highlighted. It is also noted that the very effective St. Laurence's GAA club is the centralised recycling centre for the wider area including Narraghmore
The previous adjudicator has noted how the Old Hardware is promoting local businesses, well done on your Value of Collaborations event. It was also noted that your take-a-book library was well stocked on the day of adjudication.
There might also be opportunity for increased growing of local food, either in allotments or starting up orchards - it would appear that the landscape would support such efforts. And the use of the compost from the waste composter will be another example of a circular economy in action.
Congratulations again on your SEC status, that is a major step.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Narraghmore Tidy Towns and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and CE workers, the various residents associations, the Foroige team including the Transition Year students who helped out, and the local businesses have ensured that Narraghmore has a very good standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
Along with many other Tidy Towns groups, you have undertaken a Community Spring Clean to get the year under way and you also have a 2nd general clean up day later in the year.
Your submission for 2027 might include some more detail of your planning and approach to litter control in the village, and also any measures that you are taking to promote anti-litter awareness in the community.
Congratulations on your work

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

The residents and community of Narraghmore continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level.
The village is a vibrant mix of one-off houses and small housing estates, and generally all houses were taking good care of their homes and their gardens with many keen gardeners producing very colourful gardens, with the occasional hanging baskets and window boxes again all well maintained.
The roads, verges and kerbs in the estates were also well maintained and as mentioned previously the estates enjoy good green spaces and are enjoying the fruits of earlier tree planting – when is the best time to plant a tree? 20 years ago. The benefits of trees to the health of a community cannot be understated.
It is also very encouraging to hear that the residents of The Orchard, Lipstown and Oak Park all have plans to increase the native hedgerows and evergreen plants to screen walls and boundaries to their respective estates.
Unfortunately one of the estates has what looked like an abandoned building site, surrounded by fencing, hopefully the construction will recommence soon.
It is clear that there would be a demand for housing in Narraghmore - it is obviously a very good place to live.
Well done to the engaged residents who have made their contribution throughout the year.

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

Narraghmore Tidy Towns and your retired CE worker have made a substantial commitment in terms of time and effort in maintaining the approach roads to the village particularly in relation to the very attractive flower beds and planted areas, grass verges, entrance signs, and also the maintained benches.

The approach roads into Narraghmore are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained. Trees and hedges all looked to be thriving in spite of the challenging weather conditions.

The previous adjudicator mentioned the poor condition of the planters but that appears to have been largely rectified.

The car park area beside the Old Hardware was tidy and litter free on the day of the inspection visit even though it

was a very sunny and busy day in the town.

It is entirely fitting that your entry closes with a photograph of your Foroige team working on the painting of the Telecom building - any community would be proud to have such commitment and energy.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was very impressed with the presentation of your village and the work the whole community has carried out across a wide spectrum.

Your plans for the future are exciting, especially the sensory garden project.

Keep up the good work and thank you.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.