Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Nurney - An Urnaí**	Ref:	**1965**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**344**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**15/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	48	50
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	34	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	24	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	34
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**330**	**344**

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.

This was my first visit to the very impressive village of Nurney, acting as the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026.
For 2026, NurneyTidy Towns has entered into Catergory B Village population between 201 and 1000.
Thank you for taking part in the competition since 2010. Your participation has resulted in an increased confidence and pride within the community.
You have 3 active committee members and a group of between 5 and 8 volunteers who work regularly on your projects.

Your 2026 submission is excellent, responding concisely and methodically in providing the requested information in detail. You have included some excellent photographs, including the alway useful before-and-after photos, your town map marked and index linked to show your projects.

The submission includes an updated status of your development plan, you have completed 4 years out of your 5 year plan, and it must give your team a great sense of pride and achievement when you review your achievements and successes. It is also very encouraging that you have retained your ambition for more and that you think that there will be an increased emphasis on areas for improvement that you have focussed on to date, including for example opportunities for waste minimisation and resource management.

Engagement with the school together with the other voluntary groups and businesses is essential to working effectively. You acknowledge the help and assistance of the pupils and staff and parents of Nurney National School, and also the work of Kildare
Scouts, and the support received from An Taisce, Green Homes, Kinsella's Centra, O'Briens Pub and Kildangan Stud.

Without exception all of the entrants from Kildare, including Nurney 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. Thank you to the Athy Area Committee and also the assistance of the LEADER programme.

You have a very successful communications strategy which appears to be working well, every effort is made to

ensure that all of the community is kept informed of plans and developments. It is particularly impressive that you posted a survey to all of the houses in the village - well done on that initiative.

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

Nurney is a rural townland, typical ribbon development centered on the local route R415 between Kildare and Fontstown at a crossroads and a bridge over the river Tully, a small tributary of the river Finnery which eventually feeds into the Barrow.
The main landmark buildings in the village are the Church of the Sacred Heart, the local and modern Scoil Bhride National School set back in good grounds fronting onto the R415, and the local O'Briens Bar, set in a fine stone-faced 2-storey terraced building, situated across the road from the village park. A new block of accommodation has been built beside the bar, and also presented well.
The single arch stone bridge itself is a landmark, built in 1876, and is included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. It is a narrow passage for motor traffic and has been augmented by the timber deck running parallel to the bridge, allowing for separate and safer pedestrian traffic.
The St. Brigid's Cemetery is also on R415 on the same side as the filling station. Tidy Towns have painted the walls of the cemetery and erected new signs during the year.
In addition to a number of one-off houses of various styles and the single storey Montessori building, there are also some housing estates off the R415
The overall impression if of a community with pride in their village.
Well done to the committee and volunteers who make take care of Nurney.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your current entry and last year's adjudicators report accurately identify the Village Park as the highlight of Nurney's green spaces, it is relatively close to the centre and has easy pedestrian access. The playground was occupied and in full use on the day of adjudication.
Tidy Towns have made the Park the focal point of their work over the last number of years, and have planted trees in the park in 2025/2026.
The park has a winning combination of small trails, uncut wild pollinator-friendly areas and well maintained lawns and paths. On the day of adjudication the wild meadow in particular was a hive of activity between birds, bees, butterflies and bugs. The rowan tree berries were very attractive for the many birds that flocked to the park. It would be interesting to see how many species of birds frequented the park. The perennial St. John's Wort added to the colour but needs to be cut back every year in autumn or early spring. Buddleia plants in several colours were also evident, obviously a magnet for the butterflies.
The green space opposite the school at Church View Road beside the handball alley is also very well maintained, the refurbished seat/pergola is very inviting.
Tidy Towns have also undertaken a bulb planting programme, and planting to the village entrance signs. Mention is made of the planting to the top of a small section of the stone walls entering into the village - very effective.
You have also maintained your self-watering planters through the village, again resulting in a great display of colour.

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.
Following application, you have received funding which you have used to engage an ecologist who has advised you on how best to plant and maintain your wild meadow, and also to assist in drawing up your Biodiversity Plan for Nurney. It was scheduled to be completed in the autumn of 2025, and remains on your development plan.
The Council's Draft Biodiversity Action Plan for 2026-2031 is an excellent document that might assist your future work. The document specifically identifies Tidy Towns as partners who might actively investigate opportunities to improve community biodiversity actions - the opportunities are there for you.
It is recommended that you continue engagement with the appointed ecologist, he will prove to be a great resource for you and all the stakeholders to draw on.
The proposed development of a river walk would also be an ambitious project that would deliver many benefits for the village. Water is the starting point for all of nature, it keeps us all alive, the fact that you have a river available is a definite advantage. In advance of developing a river walk, you might consider either fixing or removing and replacing the small pedestrian wooden stile that is adjacent to the current decking over the stream.
Having developed the wildlife meadow you are aware of what it takes and also your community has seen and enjoyed the benefits of having nature on your doorstep. You might consider other potential areas for encouraging biodiversity, in addition to the residential areas which are available, other towns have found that their school, graveyard and church grounds can often be effective locations for nature and biodiversity.
Given your location in a rural setting Nurney is well placed to embrace this particular challenge.

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.
The fact that you are served by public transport is a practical demonstration of how we can reduce our carbon emissions. It was also encouraging to see some bike racks placed in the school available for use. Has there been any move towards the provision of Safe School routes and cycle ways to and from the school.
It appears that the school has a garden, a herb garden and a mini-woodland. Perhaps more details will be provided

in next year's submission.
There appears to be some repetition in this years' submission from previous years entries.
Tidy Towns have cleaned the signage for the recycling centre at the garage.
The fact that your development plan is now going to concentrate on waste reduction and resource management is very much welcomed. Certainly the pupils of the school and the Scouts will be enthused by the prospect of a wormery in the school and the possibility of installing a composting site at the meadow. Please do not underestimate the effort and skill and time needed to produce a good compost fit for purpose.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Nurney Tidy Towns have made every effort over the years to keep their village litter free and tidy, with 3 litter patrols every week.
You have also reached out to the school in an effort to reduce litter in the village and surrounds. Does the school have a Green Flag?
On the day of the visit there was little evidence of litter or dumping apart from some rubbish in the stream at the bridge.
You might also be interested in taking part in the Council's very successful " Green Kilometre" initiative which pushes the boundary out beyond your village - it can be a very social experience.
Congratulations on your work

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

The residents and community of Nurney maintain and keep their homes, gardens and road to a very high level.
Castle Raven, the largest estate in Nurney was in excellent condition from the entrance off the R415, the houses had very well maintained frontage with colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets. The green space with ample tree cover in the centre of the estate provided for a very pleasant entry into the estate.
Some of the older single storey bungalows at Church View also showed off some very colourful hanging baskets.
The common green spaces in the estates might provide opportunity for residents to plant some pollinator friendly plants or to leave some room for the development of wildflower meadows.
You have made mention of the contact that Tidy Towns had with the developer of the new housing at Church Lane Road which you believe contributed to the completed development maintaining the quality of the lived environment in Nurney.
Some of the homes had solar panels in place.
It is noted that the newer developments appear to have included some effort at landscaping in the design.

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

This adjudicator arrived into and left Nurney by the R415 route. It was a very pleasant entry into the village with good clear signage and markings all the way through the village and also at the junction with the L7065 road to Monasterevin and to Kildangan.

There were traffic calming measures in place at the church and at the school. The entrance signs to the village were clear and visible and were enhanced by ground planting of geraniums.

All approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges and well maintained hedgerows. The work of the Tidy Towns in repairing damaged stone walls and having new walls put in place is recognised.

The 2025 adjudicator noted that the steel sign on the Athy Road required attention, unfortunately that remains the case in 2026.

The general condition of roads and paths was excellent and it was a pleasure to walk through and around the community of Nurney.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of Nurney and the work the tidy towns organisation has carried out. The wildflower meadow at the Village Park and indeed the Park itself was in great condition, and was probably the highlight of an excellent visit. Good luck with your ambitious plans for the future.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.