Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Robertstown - Baile Robaird**	Ref:	**981**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**306**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**29/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**306**

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, Robertstown has been a long time entrant in the competition for 47 years, and now after a very brief absence you have entered again. Thank you to Robertstown Tidy Towns and RCAA/ Robertstown Community Amenities Association for your submission. It is fully appreciated that putting an entry together for any community requires a lot of effort.
For 2026, Tidy Towns have entered into Category B Village population between 201 and 1000.
Your current active committee of 3 members and 5 volunteers work regularly on your projects.

Thank you for taking notice and complying with the competition's request to limit the size of your submission so as to assist the adjudication process.

It is recommended that your future submissions might include some thumbnail photographs of details of your well know heritage town and in particular some record of your team and the works carried out during the year.

You previously had a Junior Tidy Towns Committee a number of years ago so it is very encouraging to hear that there are plans to link up with the local primary school so as to involve young people again.

Again thank you for your submission and your work during the year - one of the aims of the competition is to foster a strong sense of community in towns like Robertstown.

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

The village of Robertstown is historically associated with the Grand Canal which was built at the end of the 18th century, the canal was the main route from Dublin to the Shannon at a time when goods and passengers were more easily transported by waterway than by road. The canal reached Robertstown in 1785 and the town acted as a major stop on the canal. The canal was used for commercial cargo traffic until 1960.
The Main Street of Roberstown and Lowtown Road run alongside the canal, with Binns Bridge, an impressive single stone arch bridge crossing the canal, linking up with Grand Canal Way and Grand Canal View on the other side of the canal.
While most towns and villages have a main street or a public square as the main focus for any visitor the canal,

the canal banks and the barges in the canal is the main feature for anybody visiting Robertstown and it presents a very attractive picture, the green verges between the road and the canal is separated by a line of bollards and chain.
The ornate lamp posts along the line fit in very well with the great architectural heritage of Robertstown and the lamp posts are linked up by a chain of bulbs - it must be a great sight at night time - a suggestion for inclusion in next year's submission perhaps. Robertstown has done very well in keeping overhead lines to a minimum.
There are many fine buildings lining the canal, some in very good condition and some in need of repair and restoration which is not unusual for many heritage towns such as Robertstown. The landmark former Grand Canal Hotel is a detached 3-storey over basement and is vacant at present. There have been suggestions that the building will be refurbished and brought back into use. The hotel building has served many purposes over the years and if it was brought back into use that would serve as a major catalyst for the regeneration of the whole village.
Also lining the main street are a number of excellent heritage buildings including the fine 2-story stone Teach Canala house, and the Garda Station with it's superb gable end depicting a canal working horse. It was very encouraging to see works under way to a number of key properties at the Main Street corners.
Binns Bridge is also a major feature of the town, Robertstown has many interesting features that catch the eye including the small 1798 memorial and stone seat set into the side of the bridge.
There are a number of businesses on the Main Street, including a take-away, and 2 pubs with prominent shop fronts Mullaneys and Welds, good shop fronts that might be refreshed. The thatched whitewashed cottage on the other side of the canal is a simple contrast to the fine buildings on Main Street.
The local national school is located some distance outside of the town opposite the new Eco Park and is in good condition.
Robertstown is a fine village with great potential. It is easy to see why it remains attractive to visitors arriving by canal, by foot, by bike or by car.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Apart from your landmark Eco Park project Robertstown has a number of green spaces distributed throughout the town which are well looked after including the green verges on both sides of the canal. The Failte sculpted box-hedge and the other hedges have been well maintained. The small area of excellent planting beside Binns Bridge is typical of the many other green spaces in the town.
Many of the homes and businesses in Robertstown also have good flower boxes and occasional planters distributed throughout.
Your current entry accurately identifies the recent delivery and opening of the Eco Park as the jewel in the crown of the Robertstown's green space, it has everything that any town would hope for from a park relatively close to the centre. The playground was fully occupied and the zip wire was in constant demand.
The park has a winning combination of wetlands, trails, uncut wild pollinator-friendly areas and well maintained lawns and paths, with all facilities including seating, bike racks, and car-parking all available so as to encourage use of the facility.
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.
All the evidence shows that living in a greener environment promotes and protects the good health of a community.
Robertstown is fortunate in that it is located in a rural area complete with trees, hedges, and stone walls and also with a canal waterway all within your village. You have an abundance of nature and biodiversity on your doorstep for observation, monitoring, encouraging and enjoying.
Your monitoring of the duck population and ensuring that numbers are maintained is an interesting project, further information and details on that would be most welcome.
The involvement of volunteer citizen scientists who are involved in a wide variety of projects ranging from counting pollinators such as bumblebase solitary bees hoverflies and moths on designated sites or regular checking and measuring of water quality all adds to the data and information available which will help inform future policy decisions.
You are also taking care in relation to the plants and flowers being planted, you have chosen your flowers for colour, and also critically for their roles as pollinators, you might consider the need to take account of all 4 seasons of the year in your planting and maintenance programme - perhaps some specialist horticularal advice might be available in your community.
The Eco Park's location beside the meadow and the placing of student's bird boxes are indicators of the extraordinary potential for the nurturing and growth of a wide range of ecosystems. Please remember that bird boxes need to be maintained and cleaned out every year.
You might consider making contact with Kildare County Council's appointed Biodiversity Officer to make sure that this magnificent amenity is protected and properly developed as a nature haven.

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.
Sustainability is a very broad term - if you look at all the actions and activities in Robertstonwn you might be surprised to see what your community is doing to promote your local circular economy.
Water is the starting point for all of nature, it keeps us alive and yet it is often undervalued and taken for granted.

Roberstown Tidy Town's use of canal water for watering the trees and plants at the Eco Park is an excellent example of your engagement with the need for sustainability, you have also tried to use eco-friendly materials where possible.
It was also encouraging to see a Green Flag at Robertstown National School, where Re-Turn Bins and bike racks were also observed. In many communities, the pupils, teachers and parents of the students are the main driving force for sustainable actions. The revival of your Junior Tidy Towns may well be the incentive to help Robertstown become more a self-reliant community.
The fact that Robertstown is the starting point for the Barrow Blueway also offers the opportunity to become a centre for cycling and hiking through the beautiful countryside and also around the village and surrounds.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

On the day of adjudication a litter picker was working on the green verge between the Main Street and the canal - in truth there was very little work because the area was generally clean but it was clear that the street and the grass verges were swept clean of litter regularly. Your submission notes that there are daily litter picks in Roberstown.
Robertstown Tidy Towns have undertaken an interesting approach to the litter control at the Eco Park by having a leave no trace policy, there will be no bins and users of the park are expected to bring home their litter. No litter or anti-social behaviour in the Eco Park or on the approach road to the Eco Park was seen on the day of inspection. There was no litter in evidence on the greenway entrances to Robertstown. Bins in the village were clean and available for use.
Keeping the village clean and tidy throughout requires a sustained community wide effort and Robertstown Tidy Towns together with the RCAA are leading the effort. Well done to all. Please also bear in mind that the health and safety of volunteers is a primary consideration - make sure that gloves and high - viz jackets are worn.
Congratulations on your work

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

As with most of the housing seen in Robertstown, the homes in St. Brigid's Terrace and estate overlooking their green well maintained area were very well looked after and of a high standard. The estate had 2 namestones. There is also traffic calming signs in place so as to encourage slower driving and safer spaces for pedestrians. The green space had a number of birch and mature ash trees which add to the tree cover.
Similarly The Moorings estate at Lowtown Road overlooking the canal are very well maintained and also has generous green spaces and a good variety of native tree species in place, all looking well with full foliage. The homes had very well maintained frontage with colourful gardens, some with flower boxes and hanging baskets. The green spaces with trees in the estate might provide opportunities for residents to plant some pollinator friendly plants.
It is also suggested that a reduced mowing schedule might be considered so as to encourage biodiversity in the residential areas. A 6-week mowing cycle allows clovers and daisies to return.
If possible it would be a positive move if each estate had a representative on the Tidy Towns group, possibly using the contacts within RCAA, so as to communicate and co-ordinate group activities.

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

The adjudicator's initial approach to Robertstown was by way of Lowtown Road and left by the road to the Eco Park and National School.
The approach roads into Roberstown are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained.

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

Having a dedicated path/cycle way running to the school and Eco Park would be a very welcome development for Robertstown.

While it is a very vibrant village there does not appear to be heavy through traffic in Robertstown, at least on the day of adjudication, which was during the school holidays.

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

Concluding Remarks:

Congratulations on the delivery of the Eco Park and best wishes for the continued maintenance. Hopefully your leave no trace policy will be followed by the many users of the facility.

Robertstown Tidy Towns 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 exciting future.

Keep up the good work and thank you.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.