Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Sallins - Na Solláin**	Ref:	**384**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**365**
Category:	**E**	Date(s):	**22/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	43	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	47	48
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	43
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**355**	**365**

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 have previously cycled through Sallins on the greenway this was was my first visit as the adjudicator for the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026. I previously had a very good impression of your home town and I was not disappointed by this return visit.
Sallins is well located and in addition to it's historic canal connection it is also served by the railway and Sallins station serves a wide hinterland for many passengers, including daily commuters. The M7 motorway is also relatively close to the town.
Your very good submission for this year's competition includes a separate page of photographs, your indexed map which lists out highlights of your work more than adequate for this adjudication report, and a typical notice for one of your litter picks.
While you are very well served by your more than 35 volunteers, given your large town status, and a rapidly growing population your small committee should aim to expand -it is appreciated that it is difficult to get volunteers to serve on a committee but other Tidy Towns have overcome similar situations by asking somebody to take on a specific role and sub-divide the work - how to eat an elephant? One bite at a time. Given the limited size of your committee you have performed brilliantly, well done to all.
You have highlighted that many organisations have contributed to your work.
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.
In addition to working with the Council's departments, LAWPRO, Irish Rail, SEAI, and Waterways Ireland you work with the residents associations, Sallins Community Council, Sallins Parish committee, board of the local primary school, and Sallins Park Action Group, Kildare Bat Group, the very active Sallins Biodiversity and Naas Biodiversity Groups, and Dulra Cill Dara, amongst others.
Sallins Tidy Towns are also supported by local businesses and individuals, thank you especially to Sallins Canal Stores, Sallins bike hire and Bargetrip.ie
Sallins Scouts, Sallins Beavers and Sallins Irish Girl Guides have also made a very strong contribution to your town.
Again your presentation of your methods of communication covers all possibilities and is also very well set out.

Congratulations on being a very active participant in the National Tidy Towns competition for 26 years - it is a record to be proud of.

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

Sallins is centred on the Clane Road R407. Grand Canal and associated greenway, and mainline railway and Sallins and Naas train station, with the town spreading out from these centres The other main feature of Sallins is the Rahandoon Road coming from Straffan and lining up alongside the canal with Church View Road on the other side of the canal.
In addition to the Lock 13 gastro pub and brewery and the Canal Stores, the canal has a number of very colourful barges moored at the canal which certainly adds to the vitality of the town.
Other landmark buildings include the St. Laurence's National School [Brilliant Art of Being Apart tiles and murals] the historic and unique Sallins Tin Church, Sallins Community Centre in the car park painted recently by Tidy Towns, the neat and tidy Sallins GAA club house and the classic Railway Station which brings together the Victorian heritage and 21st century engineering. The obviously vacant Braithewaite House opposite the Salley Garden at the Sallins Link Road has previously had some cosmetic work carried out by Tidy Towns some years ago and recently re-painted but there is a very real possibility of this fine building ending up derelict and an eye-sore - this could well be added to your future advocacy work in improving the public realm.
The bridges are also a major feature of your town, the pedestrian bridge over the canal at the school is certainly well used by a lot of pedestrians.
Tidy Towns have carried out a significant amount of work in removing graffiti and also painting murals throughout the town. Good work on the Fox & Squirrel Canal concrete blocks and the 'Sona sásta sna Solláin' Sallins Playground mural.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Over many years, Sallins Tidy Towns have taken on many green spaces in the town and planted them out, including the Salley Gardens, the entrances to the town, alongside the canal, [a stunning collection of ox-eye daisies here alongside the greenway] at the train station, and also at the Sallins Park estate. This maintenance work is essential to the appearance and presentation of the town. The constant need to water, thin out and weed around is key to the ongoing presentation of your green spaces and landscaping.
In addition to the many green spaces where you have worked you have also brought great colour and environmental benefit to the town by having numerous planters placed at key positions, as mentioned previously the use of perennials is always encouraged. The barge planters on the canal bridge railings are particularly unique but it might be time for a touch up of the painting of the wooden barges.
Your engagement of a horticulturalist to assist is very welcome and it is hoped that the future plan will provide for planting of native trees.
It is always difficult to "green" car-parking areas but it might be possible to improve both the car-parking at the railway station and at the community centre.
Thank you to Sallins Tidy Towns for the work in keeping all the green spaces and planters distributed through your town so well maintained and attractive for all. Good luck with your long-running campaign to secure a park for the town.

You have also brought some colour to the town by having numerous planters placed at key positions, as mentioned previously the use of perennials is always encouraged.

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.
Tidy Towns works closely with Sallins Biodiversity Group, a great collaboration to have for now and in the future.
Your joint venture on tree planting projects within Sallins Pier estate (fruit orchard areas and also native trees to thicken a large long hedgerow) is a great example of what is possible.
You have included in your submission a significant engagement with talks, workshops, and event so as to promote the essential message of the need to protect and encourage our ecosystems for the good of all.
In addition to looking after bird houses and bat boxes you now plan to install solitary bee posts sourced from the Irish Bee Conservation Ireland project - another critical area where 90% of Irish bee species are in danger of extinction. This is a great initiative.
Your citizen science engagement with the DCU water monitoring programme is also very welcome - water quality standards have been deteriorating over the last number of years - a clean-up of our rivers, streams, and waterways will deliver a better environment for all
Sallins has the advantages of having many areas around the village, including the Grand Canal waterway and greenway offering significant plant wildlife habitats.
Your village offers many opportunities for learning and development in this area. The Wild about Sallins boards performs an essential task.
Again, we would recommend your continued engagement with the Biodiversity Officer appointed by Kildare County Council.

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.
This category has become increasingly important to many of the communities in the tidy towns competition as it now has a marks allocation of 80. This category is about looking at how the community as a whole can reduce waste and save on water, energy and transport.

Sallins Tidy Towns has fully taken on board the need to live more sustainably and demonstrates in your submission the many ways that you are thinking globally while acting locally.
As a town with ever increasing volumes of traffic, you have correctly identified the promotion of active travel and the promotion of the increased use of public transport as a key objective. You have also tried to promote cycling, which given your position alongside the canal greenway offer economic potential for the town as recreational cycling grows in popularity - it might be useful to look at the Athlone-Mullingar and the Midleton-Youghal greenways and other thriving greenways to see what is possible.
Well done to the school on it's promotion of it's active school week, and park and ride programme - walking trains have become increasingly popular with parents and pupils to get some exercise and to avoid traffic congestion.
On the face of it Sallins appears to be dependent on cars. It might have been missed or not noticed but this adjudicator did not see any EV charging points in the town other than 1 charging point in the station car-park. There is certainly scope for better facilities for cyclists. There has been significant investment in better public transport nationwide over the last number of years and your lobbying might well with the relevant service providers might well improve your situation.
One of Sallins Tidy Towns landmark projects for 2026 has been your linking up with the SEAI and your registration as a Sustainable Energy Community - congratulations on this move. Every step that every individual, family, household, and community makes to move away from our dependency on fossil fuels is to be encouraged and welcomed. Continued communication and co-operation with your SEAI mentor is necessary.
In Ireland, it is estimated that approximately 200 million single-use takeaway cups are used and discarded every year. This equates to roughly 528,000 disposable cups thrown away daily, or 22,000 every single hour. Because of their plastic-lined interiors, almost all of these cups end up in general waste or landfill rather than recycling. Sallins has a number of coffee shops that appeared to be thriving on the day of adjudication and any move towards the use of keep cups will be a very positive step. Are the coffee shops in Sallins recycling their coffee granules?
We look forward to hearing more from you in 2027 regarding your town's water storage and water management projects and programmes - society's appreciation of water as very valuable resource not to be wasted continues to grow.
Finally a particular word of appreciation for the polytunnels and allotment works at An Garrai Beag centre in the town, viewed from the outside this was outstanding - purple poppies alongside new potatoes, fantastic. Well done to Down Syndrome Ireland and everybody who worked and helped on this brilliant project, this adjudicator would have loved to have got inside the fence for a better view of it all.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Sallins Tidy Towns Committee and the volunteers together with the employees of Kildare County Council and other stakeholders have ensured that your town continues to have a high standard of tidiness and litter control in all of the public areas visited.
Your highlighting of the issue and scourge of FAST gas canisters littering and disposal with the Council is very much welcomed, as you note this is a nationwide issue as is the issue of vape disposal.
Well done to the artist who produced the poster monthly group litter pick. And well done to the volunteers who regularly turn up, complete the hard yards and do the necessary work.
While it is disappointing that the CE support is no longer available, your engagement with the litter warden is also a positive support. Equally critical is the support and co-ordination with the residents of the 10 estates that are part of the Sallins community. Well done on your participation in the An Taisce Spring Big Clean, the resulting data collected will be very interesting so as to benchmark future clean ups. Also well done on your efforts to remove graffiti.
Congratulations on your hard and very effective work.

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

As is evident on the visit to Sallins, the development of the community and care of the town is changing and the input of the new residents as well as the not-so-new residents is critical to your long term future. The Tidy Towns co-ordination and support of the individual estates can only lead to the greater good of all.
The residents and community of Sallins Park continue to maintain and keep their homes, gardens and streets to a very high level. The bungalows and green spaces at Sallins Wood were also in very good condition with obvious pride of place. Similarly Hillview Estate entrance beds are a welcome addition.
Having new developments under construction presents many challenges to towns like Sallins but it appears that the developers are prepared to work alongside the community and minimise the impact and disruption.
The Community Council may well be a useful forum for growing the Tidy Towns committee by taking in representatives from each of the estates, which will increase the local knowledge of what is happening on the ground, will embed the estates in the Tidy Towns and hopefully increase the social interaction and fun which is an essential part of all tidy towns activities.

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

You have identified the very good work carried out by Tidy Towns to the various major entrances to the town, and also to the Kerdiffstonw Road and also the various laneways. The fact that you have the largest liveaboard community in Ireland who also help out the Tidy Towns certainly adds to the charm of your unique town.

The Sallins rail station also presents a welcoming entrance to the town. For those bikes travelling on the East Greenway it is a great entrance to see the lock and the bridge at the end of a cycle. It will be interesting to see how the closing of the ramp outside Lock 13 works out.

The proposed new Sallins Settlement draft will hopefully deliver new pedestrian crossings and a reclassification of the main road to downgrade it to a local road to reduce traffic passing through Sallins.

Generally entrances into the town including the R407 roundabouts offered good clear signage and markings. All approaches had neatly trimmed grass verges and well maintained hedgerows. While some of the paths and kerbs need remedial work the general condition is good.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator was impressed with the good condition of Sallins and the work the committee and volunteers of the TIdy Towns has carried out. It is fully appreciated that maintaining and improving developing towns with significant traffic issues presents challenges. Nevertheless Sallins Tidy Towns continue to improve their town in many ways. We look forward to your continued commitment.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.