

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edgeworthstown - Meathas Troim** Ref: **714**
County: **Longford** Mark: **366**
Category: **D** Date(s): **21/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	48	50
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	47	50
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	30	32
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	41
TOTAL MARK	600	352	366

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.”

Edgeworthstown is welcome to the 2026 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition and we note you have participated for the past 16 years – well done. Your committee of 6 members is supported by 16 volunteers who help when needed. You have a programme of formal and informal meetings with community groups and you work with the Literary Festival Organisers for their annual literary festival. You have also invited Ukrainian refugees to participate in your work. It is clear you have a busy year-round programme of Tidy Town and other related activities.

Thank you for including a list of agencies that support you. We counted a total of 14 agencies, including Longford Co. Co., POBAL, An Post, North Midlands Credit Union, church bodies, and local business interests.

Your communication systems include a website & Facebook page; Local Notes -Longford Leader, St Mary's R.C. Church Parish News Letter and Website, TEXT Alert., notices displayed on shop windows, and new electronic display board at the library.

For schools, you have an annual Tidy Towns Schools competition sponsored by North Midlands Credit Union at St Johns and St Mary's School. Young people over the age of 16 years participate in the Spring Clean-up each year. This year you have set as one of goals to introduce a Junior Tidy Towns to the National Schools in the town.

Well done on the 3-year plan (2026-2028) and updating the Biodiversity Plan (2026-2028) – it is very interesting.

Thank you for the map of Edgeworthstown with project locations marked for our attention. At first glance we were pleased until we tried to understand the numbers. What we missed was a legend on the same page that would tell us what each number represented. Then there wasn't even a list of the numbers within the application. We suggest that a legend for the numbers should be on the same page as the map. Otherwise, we have to scroll over and back through the application to understand what they represent. Also, the numbers on the map should be in a sequence to make it more convenient to find a particular number. Therefore, we ask that the map should be done first and when the projects are numbered in a sequence on the map, then take those numbers into the application.

You have chosen to have a separate file for 34 photos, which means we have to flip over and back through two documents as we read your application. It would be much more convenient if you included the pictures within the application alongside the relevant text. Please note that usually we read the application before we visit your community and when we walk around we like to have everything referenced on the map, because it is cumbersome to look at the application and photos while on site.

Therefore, it would be a very important exercise for your team, between now and next spring to prepare a much better map for next year's adjudicator. The map itself will be fine, but will be of little use without a legend on the same page.

We recommend that you read the revised handbook which has guidance and project ideas on all eight criteria. It is

available at the following link. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>

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

Items mentioned here include.

Restoration of 9 original Sash Windows at the back of Marie Edgeworth Centre Building (Old School House).

Renovation of the old Fire Station at top of Church St. which was damaged in a storm where seven new town houses at Pound St, are under construction at the site.

Input into the installation of replica Victorian foul pipes at Granard Road and Devine Cr by Irish water, replacing rusted pipes. Replacement of upper floor windows on Park House Hotel. Renovation of derelict premises at Main St, Edgeworthstown where there are plans to develop the rear garden for allotments.

You maintain the car park at the rear of the library. Improvement works (car park extension and new cut stone wall) which were done at the railway station looked very well.

Resurfacing of street to St John Church and a small car park outside St John Church. This historical building is part of the Heritage & Literary Trail .

You maintain the BACKS (a pedestrian walk way between Pound St and Dublin Rd), part of the Literary Walk. We walked this short pathway, which has hoarding on one side due to adjacent buildings under construction.

At St Patrick's Terrace, the road was resurfaced and a new footpath constructed. New fingerboard sign on top of Church Street.

In Main Street, the SuperValu shop built into a stone walled building caught our eye. However, it is a pity that various forms of shopping trolleys are stored right against the front of the building – can an alternative less conspicuous location be found for them? Other properties which caught our attention were Quinns Supply Stores Ltd., Gorman's Lodge, the A&N Gift Stores, Parker Carpets, and the Goldsmith Inn. The new 3-storey library building opened in 2022. It is set back from the building line with an open hard surface plaza onto Main Street with colourful plant containers – and a few street trees near the footpath edge – all of which you maintain. The bust of Maria Edgeworth fixed to a tall white plinth on the plaza was also noted. This very modern building was constructed of a mix of reinforced concrete, glulam and infill masonry blockwork. We read how Japanese knotweed had to be removed before the building was constructed – well done to the design and construction team. We looked through the side gate and noted a combination of plants and illustrations.

The Maria Edgeworth Centre Visitor Centre is an important building on Ballymahon Road – The sign with information on the Heritage and Lottery Trail made interesting reading. A flowering cherry tree in the yard, which was severely pruned should now be removed. We liked the toadflax which has established on the boundary wall. St Mary's Church on the Dublin Road which dates from the 1870s is a major landmark in the town and on the opposite side of the road is the well landscaped Our Lady's Nursing Home. We noted the plaques advising us that members of the Edgeworth family were born and lived on this site. The Post Office building has five arches with attractive displays for the Literary Festival - which we liked very much.

We admired the terraced housing on Church Street and noted the little sign for the Men's Shed. Further on, the small St John's school is a lovely stone building and we noted the solar panels on the roof. A little garden looked well inside the boundary and window boxes added enhancement.

We liked the information signs on display at various locations around the town and the street signs on the corners of buildings. They are bilingual and are easy to read and well done for having each of them sponsored.

St Mary's Community Campus Ltd, St Mary's Childcare Campus and St Christophers are located just off the N55 beside the cemetery. It is great to see a dual use of the land in regard to the car parking facilities, which also serves the adjacent cemetery. It would seem that there was a meeting of minds when these facilities were planned, and it is noted that so few fences can be seen. This large site to this observer seems to have been well planned. The adjacent cemetery has an old and a new section. We liked the old stone boundary wall alongside the access road, but question when the new extension was planned, that the boundary was built with concrete blocks. It is a pity that the new wall was not built to match the old one, but sadly this has happened in several other places in Ireland. Our other comment is about the Irish yew trees which were planted in the old cemetery and are looking splendid, but in the new cemetery extension there are no trees at all. In general, we find that the long term vision of cemeteries in Ireland considers the graves and yet the cemetery will be there for centuries when it could function as a park, if planned for that long term use. So, we recommend that some trees be planted in the new cemetery and climbing plants against the concrete boundary walls. Make it a park, after all in some countries, cemeteries are called memorial gardens.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We walked around The Green and agree with your comments - it is one of the best community assets in Edgeworthstown. The facility is managed by Edgeworthstown District Development Association and provides sport facilities for Basketball, Tennis, Soccer and Paddle Board. The building itself is very attractive with cartoon and fairy story characters painted on the walls, There is also a Children Play Ground which was being used on the day. The recreational walk, with exercise equipment is another attraction which can be used by people without having a booking. The Green Building provides facilities for meetings of community groups. The finished Famine Memorial Plaque was erected earlier this year at the sensory garden. We noted the little stream going through the park with the sloped grassed banks, one side of which is mown and the other, not being mown has some wildflowers. There are many trees of different ages throughout the park and they will add enhancement as they grow. However, please remember to remove the tree guards before they cause damage to tree stems. We noted the use of 7 concrete plant container for traffic management reasons – they seem to be working.

Within the town we noted some trees planted in containers which you mention are maintained by you. While the containers are a good size and the trees seem healthy, we regard trees in containers as being temporary and in fact we suggest that surveys of underground and overground service should be undertaken with a view to devising a street tree planting programme for the town centre. We also saw the tiered displays of flowering plants here and

there .

Nature and Biodiversity in your locality

The updated Biodiversity Plan (2026-2028) is noted. It contains very interesting information on flora and fauna in Edgeworthstown. We assume this information will form part of educational programmes for school children.

You are working with David Quinn, Community Water Officer to develop a wetland garden on the bank of the Black River on the Ballymahon. That will be something for next year's adjudication.

The Green is being managed in a way to promote wildlife where the grass on the banks of the Black River is being allowed to grow. Also a dead hedge was built in a gap where trees had fallen after the storm to encourage bees and other insects. You have informed the Council of Japanese Knot Weed growing on the River bank.

The Men's Shed have planned to assist with an extension of the herb bed in the Green. As part of the Marie Edgeworth Literary festival on 15th -17th May, Octavia Tulloch gave a talk on Foraging. The grounds of St Christopher's, which is owned by the HSE is being managed as a wildlife habitat.

You monitor two nesting locations for swifts birds in the town. One located at Our Lady's Nursing Home and the other at the library.

You organise a schools competition, sponsored by North Midlands Credit Union. The 2026 competition is based on the theme of Nature and Biodiversity.

It is great that you are actively working towards promoting an awareness of this criterion. You can also arrange events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

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Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

The following have been noted.

The cart made from recycled material and used when litter picking and sweeping the town. Fabulous Fines the second hand shop in Main St. The two Primary Schools in the town, St Mary's and St Johns operate clothes banks. Proceeds from clothes banks is used to cover some of the cost of student away days during the year.

Solar panels installed on several buildings, including the Park House Hotel where the top storey windows were replaced with more energy efficient windows, the Worx on Main St. C&D Pet Foods LTD located on the Old Longford Rd has a strong focus on delivering environmental improvements. Since 2021 the company has significantly increased production, while achieving substantial reductions in Carbon emissions, water consumption and electricity intensity.

The Schools competition, sponsored by North Midlands Credit Union, set a challenge for the pupils of St Johns and St Mary's National schools. In 2025 the task was set to promote their understanding of Waste Minimisation and doing more with less.

At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling issues of food waste and plastic disposal. What are homes and businesses doing to tackle these? For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Under this criterion, there are several more projects that if undertaken could gain more marks. Therefore, we suggest you consult the handbook on the following link for more ideas on projects under this criterion.

<https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You provided details of cleaning and painting of Iron Gates at the Cemetery, roadside farm gates, at the Doctors Surgery and near Our Lady's Nursing Home. For weed control on pavements, you use a machine and replace brushes when required.

The Council operates the road sweeper in the town and on the approach roads on average twice per month.

The annual clean-up at the Cemetery is done prior to Cemetery Sunday and a weekly clean up in the town is done every Saturday morning year round at 6am. You also clean the site at the back of the Library. Litter picks of the town and Ring Road are done from 7.30 every Sunday morning year-round. The annual Spring Clean on approach roads was done on Saturday 21st March last and was well supported by the community, including the Men's Shed and the Ukrainian community. Last October you removed large items of rubbish from The Black River at Lisnageeragh Lane.

Street furniture, including litter bins is cleaned bi-annually. Bollards and roadside gullies are maintained by the

Council and you remove unauthorised posters.

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

New road surfacing at the top of Church Street and Car Park at St Johns Church – was carried out in February 2026.

You assist residents of Church St and Charlotte Row, a new small estate of houses for older people to keep the street and surrounding area clean year-round. A member of Tidy Towns, who lives nearby, maintains potted plants and displays along the entrance road to the estate.

You maintain a Flower/Shrub bed planted with pollinator plants and low shrubs at small estate of houses for older persons at Granard Road Edgeworthstown

The bed was originally constructed by your group with help from the more able residents of the estate. This year you changed some plants.

The management of St John National School have developed a pollinator bed inside the gate – which we noted earlie. They also set holly hedgerow at the School on the road side. The school building is enhanced with window boxes and other planting in the grounds.

You work with Edgeworthstown District Development Association to maintain the green areas in private and local authority housing estates around the town. You provide the lawn mowers and insurance cover on the machines. You are concerned about derelict houses, and are working with the Council towards improving the situation. You cleaned the railings outside the Catholic Church on Dublin Rd, to remove algae and mould build up and plan to wash down the railings at the junction of Main St and Granard Rd. You maintain the grounds and cemetery around St Johns Church.

In Kilbride Manor, we liked the birch trees at the entrance, but the branches of one tree has almost hidden the 30kmh sign – which also is very dirty. Goldsmith Meadow has well established street tree whereas Pairc na hAbhainn would look much better if it had some trees.

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

The old Longford Road is essentially an industrial zone with the different enterprises not having any landscape treatment. We advise on at least a tree planting scheme for this length of road, which means planting trees inside the various boundaries, as there may not be sufficient space outside their boundaries.

On Bracklin Road, the advance sign about the school is almost hidden by foliage and the sign is dirty. The same comment applies to the large sign on Dublin Road for Our Lady's Manor.

You manage the walks linking Granard Rd and Bracklin road since 2020. You built a small garden with a series of stepping stones for children and a Shrub Bed on the opposite of the Granard Road.

CE scheme workers maintain the pathways, verges and hedges on the N4 Ring Road under your guidance. Grass mowing is done by a contractor engaged by the Council.

Near the church, we saw the small Memorial Garden to commemorate local people who fought and died in the first world war.

Concluding Remarks:

It has been many years since we visited Edgeworthstown. We were delighted to visit again and see the many changes. Well done for the huge effort undertaken by your team to keep it looking its best. We hope you find at least some of our comments helpful in your future projects.