

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Ballindine - Baile an Daighin	Ref:	1011
County:	Mayo	Mark:	341
Category:	B	Date(s):	14/06/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	42
TOTAL MARK	600	330	341

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. Thank you for the opportunity to visit your village as an adjudicator and to read about all your community activities. For a population of just under 500 it is wonderful that you can sustain a committee of 15 and rally key volunteers from across the community. You get support from a range of state bodies and also from local sources such as your GAA club and local businesses. You also participate in the PPN and avail of supports from officers in Mayo Co. Co. Having strong collaborative links with your school who are participating in Green Schools Program Biodiversity module is benefiting your specially chosen project, the Pollinator Garden. You also call on your youth to bolster your litter picks. Well done for this collaborative work.

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

The first impression of the streetscape entering Ballindine is one of a neat cared for village. Despite having to sustain the relentless traffic on the N17 which traverses the Main Street the village exhibits character and community investment. The main street is mainly terraced one and two storey buildings. The street is nicely tree lined and accommodates a number of key buildings. On the northern approach the GAA clubhouse and pitch boldly declare club red and black colours with a well-kept premises where sponsor signage is neatly displayed. The Health Centre is adjacent while the RC church, graveyard and presbytery is opposite set in nice grounds with a number of mature trees. The community centre which may have been the old schoolhouse also fronts onto the main street. It is bright and has a lovely decorative arch entrance and accessible playground. The Garda station is freshly painted, and the primary care hub located along the main street too also looks well. The Market Square is represented by a recess in the streetscape. Other key facilities here include the tennis courts and little park adjoining Marian House, the respite care centre. A range of street furniture and public realm features enliven this stretch also which includes old water pumps, painted bollards, the old forge site, delightful historic and environmental murals and Christmas tree frames. Buildings are generally in decent shape, nicely painted and some newly restored perhaps? infill on the corner of Station Road represents a good addition. You mentioned the painting of Clarke's façade which looks well and is hopefully open again soon. Duffy's is a nice representation of good vernacular architecture and signage. Clarke's bar and Jackie's support good businesses. The adjoining takeaway could do with less signage on the frontage though. The hanging baskets, planters, bedding and flowerboxes all add colour to the nice, mature trees along the streetscape. The modern primary school being located close to the main street and GAA pitch is another good contributor to the streetscape. Station Road is another nice street and has the historic old disused railway infrastructure. Good to see a lot of housing just off the village giving strength to the core area.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We hear that your community garden is a valuable asset to your village and used by many and for a range of amenity activities. It does provide a lovely, enclosed oasis from the heavy traffic and is wonderfully planted up in an extensive range of pollinators. It is right that you commemorate Pat RIP for his gift of the land. I am sure it provides refuge also for those stopping in the village and also for those visiting the respite centre. Your mini garden on Station Road is a nice quiet space and wonderfully embellished with pollinator plants and ideal for a rest on your recessed seat. Landscaping along the main streets is a credit to you. The line of trees, hedging, planters, window boxes, hanging boxes and ground planting contributes to village vibrancy as well as nature. Well done to all involved. Nice to see the fairy garden surrounding the tree at the junction with the Ballyhaunis Road, very neatly presented. Your church grounds and graveyard are classically formal in nature but provide a nice amenity refuge and a lovely address to the street. Really like the canopy of trees that frame the church entrance. You describe the pocket space near the site of the old forge as a work in progress. Interesting to see the pictorial images, it would benefit greatly by planting some trees, installation of a raised bed and painting the boundary fencing to give the seating area a better aspect. Maybe for next year. The large commercial garages and the health centre are also areas that could benefit from additional landscaping, particularly as these are on the entrance to the village and give a first impression. The tennis courts and associated open space and seating are also contributing to the green and open spaces in the village, they were not patronised on the day of the visit but then Mayo was playing an important match and from your flag displays the village you are great county supporters.

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

You are engaging with your MCC Biodiversity Officer to further enhance the village by preparing additional actions under a bespoke biodiversity plan. This is wonderful and having seen other similar plans for villages, actions are all normally very achievable and may widen the remit to include the broader community. Already your community are aware of the value of enhancing biodiversity through your work on your community garden. There are many information panels on nature there and the advice on the benefits of choosing plants for pollinators. You should encourage your schoolchildren to participate in FIT counts there – easily carried out with the app and the results would be interesting to see what insects visit the plants. Information is available on all Ireland Pollinator plan. This would enhance their activities under the Green School program on biodiversity that you tell us about. Being located in rural area you are also blessed with hedgerows, mature trees, stone walls which provide habitats and food sources for mammals, insects and birds. We see you have nesting boxes at the park and the school and a bug hotel – great to hear what success you are having with these. All your other planting throughout the village and at the mini park are well designed to nurture nature with both nectar and provide attraction for pollinators. We would echo what previous adjudicators have mentioned regarding the tyre planters in that it would be better if you found some other material to make recycled planters. Great if you have a men's shed nearby that could rise to the challenge.

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

It is good that you take a sustainable approach to presentation of your planters in recycled containers. Harvesting rainwater as you describe the practices of some of your community households is great for use in the garden and other non-potable uses. Good you have access to a tap in the community centre for ease of watering your public containers. Is this from mains water supply it was not made clear. You also are delighted that you have access to a good public transport link. Your bus stop is conveniently located on the main street which must encourage usage and reduce car transport and consequently potential carbon emissions. It will be more beneficial and comfortable when you get a bus shelter also. Does your school get involved in walk /bike to school days? Great to see EV charging available in the garage forecourt. WEEE collections are used by your residents to offset electrical goods going to landfill or being dumped illegally. You also tell us about your local company who manufactures solar compacting bins (Pel bins). We note they have kindly donated these bins to locations in the village. A visit to your GAA grounds revealed one such bin there as well as a deposit re-turn receptacle, no doubt generating income for the club – a good fundraiser and helps reduce waste too. Does your school or GAA club have access to water refill stations? Does your school or club have any facilities to donate outgrown sports gear or uniforms. Some other communities in Mayo organise these recycling activities.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Lovely to see all the photographs on your Facebook page from you Spring Clean litter pick and the after acknowledgement from Supermac's for your voluntary work for the community. The posts here also are indicative of all the other work you do to keep your village clean. The effects were quite noticeable on the day of the visit, Ballindine was practically litter free. We appreciate that this is an ongoing activity and see you carry out regular litter patrol and instil this respect in your school community too through organising their respective litter picks on Friday in the school grounds. Your area also showed great restraint with no commercial signage cluttering the street or on the approaches. Your work at the grotto is transformational, reward in heaven hopefully! We did notice redundant pole at the bus stop it would be great if removed when you are getting your new bus shelter. Also noticeable were the damaged pedestrian traffic light fixtures, presumably damaged by large vehicles. It would be important that you lobby to get these fixed for both aesthetic and safety reasons. Like last year's adjudicator we have to comment you for weed free status of your paved areas. Well done all round.

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

It was great to see a strong residential presence on the main street, station road and in small enclaves off the spine roads in the village. In general, the village displays an intact streetscape with any vacancy/dereliction substantially camouflaged, good street furniture and bright informative murals. Well done with your improvements to Duffy's.

Many properties have been painted up so well. We particularly noticed the two houses close to the fairy tree, the brightly painted house beside the forge, lovely stone cottages and also the exceptionally clean appearance of the cottage with the lovely nature mural on its side wall. The new housing on the Main Street is development well and is nicely designed, perhaps you could give advice on increasing biodiversity in the open space through introducing tree and pollinator friendly planting in their open space and roadside boundary. The terrace along Station Road reflected good maintenance and mature planting. Davitt Court also looked well. There are a number of fine houses with well landscaped gardens along the approach roads.

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

Having a national primary route the N17 traversing your village is a challenge for residents, particularly pedestrians. The traffic calming measures at the outskirts and within the village do attempt to temper this, unfortunately your by-pass never materialised. You do regardless support a welcoming invite with your nice bilingual signs, well maintained verges, hedging and planting. Within the village segregation of traffic and an island refuge combined with pedestrian crossings do contribute to ease of movements in the village and you have enlivened these areas with your planting scheme and public spaces. Having the drama of your large 'The Player' sculpture gives identity to Ballindine and it great to learn of its historic significance. It adds interest to the public realm and with the adjacent trees, planters, bollards and bench is a pleasant place to linger and a nice entry point to your community park. Good luck with sourcing funding for re-painting and keep lobbying! You have focused on the area of the old rail line with nice signage, bridge and floral baskets at this approach. It might, like your village walk at Lugallisheen have some potential for passive recreation also.

Concluding Remarks:

It was enjoyable to have a reason to explore your village as an adjudicator and learn about all your wonderful voluntary work to enhance your local neighbourhood. Your application and accompanying photographs made it easy to orientate myself. Glad to read about your next schedule of works and good luck in continuing all your admirable endeavours.