

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyheane - Béal Átha hÉin** Ref: **1854**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **313**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	37
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	71
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	37
TOTAL MARK	600	304	313

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. Ádh mór. Welcome to the Tidy Town Competition. You have a committee of 3 and can rely on 8 volunteers. You also indicate that you have support from local business and community organisations. You are not long in the competition so it would be beneficial to get to know that there are good supports and advice for projects you may like to do available from a number of public bodies. You could start with Mayo Co.Co and key officers such as the Heritage Officer, Conservation Officer, Climate Action Officer, Environmental Officer, Area and the Biodiversity Officer so reach out. You tell us you involve your young community in litter control and planting. Social media is a great way to connect with this group, and the general community so maybe post on your community council Facebook page, as you do not seem to have one yet, great for when you need help. You indicate that work in the old graveyard is your special project this year.

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

Please have a look at the category information on the entry form and consult the Tidy Towns Handbook which has loads of information on what we are looking for in this category as we see you inserted information that may be more appropriate for other categories. Notwithstanding this we noted that the village is centred on the heavily trafficked N84 Castlebar – Ballinrobe road. Clustered in the centre are your two pubs, The Punch Bowl and the nice, neat Mc Evilly's. Your Daybreak petrol station /shop has a smartly painted elevation. Your other key buildings include a Ballet School which occupies your old N.S. school, great if the stencilling on the wall were embellished by more and bigger shapes with more colour – it would animate the streetscape. Your primary school now sits further down the street on a large site which has huge potential for landscaping and good biodiversity activities that would align with the Green Schools program. There was great activity at the Community Centre site where you accommodate a colourful busy preschool, your new hand ball alley and playing pitches. A great collection of community facilities all located in a hub and very accessible from the village. You have two graveyard – the old historic one and the one to the rear of the church which reflects good care. Your church is a nice modern design, really liked the external bell and wondered if it is ever used. You have some dereliction but lots of new houses too. We like last year's adjudicator admired your iron gates – lovely one in the old graveyard too – this could be a project next year to clean and paint.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your verges are well maintained, and you have enhanced the village with your planters and colourful bedding at

key locations. Some need a little more care, so remove weeds. Indeed, it might be better if you planted pollinator friendly perennials directly into the ground instead at some of these locations on the grass strips, easier on maintenance and watering. Despite this we were very impressed by the extensive bedding at the junction of the Derrew road it looks great. You mentioned clearance of briars in the historic graveyard and we wandered in there. Do not forget to keep a narrow path and control the grasses. If you encouraged more wildflowers and suppressed the grass growth (use yellow rattle) the site would be a lovely address to the village. Contact the Biodiversity Officer MCC for advice and continue to link with the Heritage Officer We liked the picnic area beside the little river, nice to have the curved hedging to give some enclosure and barrier from the adjacent traffic. We see you are looking after your nice row of trees on the street too

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

In this category, you indicate that you have reduced the amount of grass cutting that you undertake, well done – “no mow May” is important for nature and links well with this category. You tell us about the biodiversity garden – we notice that you have nature information boards here good. The pump is nice here too, but the adjacent planter was in a poor condition. The garden did seem a bit neglected – you should give it a refresh and add more wildflowers and repair/replace the bird boxes and bug hotel. We think that you should link in with the school as this little park has great potential as a learning area on biodiversity for your school children. A path should be made through the grass roadside verge to improve access. We also noticed an empty bed area near the school – assume you are preparing to plant here, that would be great, please choose pollinator friendly species.

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

You tell us that you recycle glass in the village and avail of a clothes bank at the Breaffy GAA clubhouse. Wonderful that you have volunteers that propagate plants that you can use in planters and in pots. Fantastic that your soccer club has invested in solar PV. You tell that they also provide a tap for drinking water to discourage the use of single use plastics. We did notice that your welcome sign at either approach is powered by solar energy – how innovative. You also indicate that you focus on securing resources and materials locally too to avoid travel and to sustain local businesses. Great Stuff. Look at the Tidy Town handbook for some more good ideas.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is not clear if you participate in the An Taisce Spring Clean like most other Tidy Town committees. If registered, they provide clean up kits - gloves and bag. It would be a great idea good for the community spirit too and you could make an annual event out of it. Having said that you do tell us that you have organised the local Foroige group to help with litter picks and work with local clubs, residents and businesses to keep the village clean. In general, you have a very clean village, you have also done work in both graveyards to give better presentations. Your commercial properties all looked well too. There is a need to keep the weeds under control – some on path verges and some in planter areas. We also noticed some litter in the immediate area of the Biodiversity Garden. The recycle bins too had some rubbish deposited on the ground – this is a problem everywhere unfortunately. The community centre and sports pitches look very well maintained. Overall, the village reflect care and maintenance. Well done.

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

Ballyheane's residential area is primarily located along the N84 stretch. You indicate that residents take pride in taking care of their respective properties and we noted that was the case indeed and this was evident during our visit. We saw a consistently high standard of care across the homes we passed, with several gardens standing out for their quality and attention to detail. Well done to the householders for their continued efforts.

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

You have nice, framed signage with planters at either end of the village on the approaches along the N84. You have indicated in other categories that you clear weeds regularly and maintain the flower containers. You also mentioned that you have maintained the lovely line of lime trees. In general, your footpaths and grass areas look well also. We liked your nice dramatic timber village name sign on the grass bank – it must be hard to keep this weed free. Keep up the good work and encourage others to help and spread the burden.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for participating in the competition and for your application and map and plan. It would be great if you added some photos of your work throughout the year so that we can see all you do. Also do not hesitate to look for advice and help from the various sections in the local authority as we have seen in other applications this can work well for communities and direct them to where they can get additional support and resources.