

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bullsmouth - Bhéalbhuiláin** Ref: **2277**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **260**
Category: **A** Date(s): **24/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	34	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	20	21
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	33
TOTAL MARK	600	248	260

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. We congratulate your enthusiasm for participating in the Tidy Town competition for 5 years now. Despite having an immediate community of only 30 you still manage to sustain a committee of 4 and enlist an additional 10 people to help in volunteering. You truly appreciate that every small action adds up and can improve the environment for all. You are to be commended for your community spirit and desire to enhance your area. We appreciate the information you have given in your application and the supporting map and photographs. You have managed also to link in with national initiatives including the Coast Clean up campaigns, An Taisce Clean-up which benefits both yourselves and visitors to your area. There are other potential supports that can be garnered especially from the Biodiversity Officer, Heritage Officer and Environmental Section of Mayo County Council. Your location on Achill Island and on a route to Inishbiggle Island might attract support from those involved in tourism too. Notwithstanding the possibility of state agency supports it might be worth brainstorming your community for innovative ideas that could enhance your local area. You could also reach out to nearby Tidy Town committees for peer support and guidance. If you can establish a small plan for each year of simple projects it will give you structure and perhaps attract some supports such as that for materials, tools and/or general advice. It is wonderful anyway that for this year you have advanced the construction of the seat at the pier and have indicated that this is your identified priority project. You appreciate the meditative value of looking out to sea as Seamus Heaney captures it in his poetry “ wild with foam and glitter” as it was on the day of our visit.

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

Your character is one of a low-density housing rural area, you are not defined by streets and do not have any commercial shop/pub focus either. Despite this you have given definition to your area with your unique stone signage heralding arrival at the junction and additional Tidy Town signage along the route to the pier which is a main focus of Bullmouth facing out to the Island of Inishbiggle. This is an attractive area with stone embankments and a small beach either side and as the boats resting here suggest a point of departure to the Island where we know there is a loop walk. Here you have installed a new seat which gave me an opportunity to stop for tea and enjoy your environment. We note an additional platform with seating to the north also. As indicated, there is no evidence of any community building in the area but as a previous adjudicator suggested there may be some opportunity to use the old national school which appears vacant as a community hub ? Inishbiggle has an interesting history and does attract visitors, and you have a small boat ferry service from Bullsmouth so your next venture might be an information board at the pier with a map of the area, including the history and loop walks on nearby Inishbiggle which is still populated and the boatman who is available to offer trips across could advertise

here too.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Nature is doing all the work to provide you with a wonderful green space and to give you a lovely backdrop to your area. We appreciate that you have dotted the area with many colourful pollinator friendly planters raised up on local stone and slate. They do give a neighbourhood definition to the area, but I am sure are a bit of work too. Like previous adjudicators we would suggest you plant more perennials into the ground – you could surround these as beds with your local stones. Wildflower seeds could be harvested and used, or you could plant some native trees at key junction locations. Also refer to the National Biodiversity website for guidance. We do note that you have commenced some direct planting well done and maybe replicate some of your neighbours planting that we see is flourishing in their boundaries such as that on the house at the pier and the great ox eyed daisies on another house boundary. It is a good gesture that you provide a nice, recessed seating area at the junction, which is on a cycle route, and I am sure has provided a nice pleasant restful spot for many.

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

You tell us that you contribute to controlling invasive briar growth as well as Rhododendron in places, well done, unfortunately Achill does have a problem with these and Gunnera. You also suggest that you adhere to good practices such as limiting verge cutting as we saw. Do we assume you limit cutting “no mow May” too? Great work, good that your general hedging, coastal area and grasslands are left for nature to support habitats. Great to see also your general open bogland areas with heathers and bog cotton. You indicate re-seeding with wildlife seeds, tell us more about this next year and maybe photograph locations. You have included a little bee garden – obviously, this included your young community’s artwork, nice touch. Do you link in with the local school Green School program? Maybe nice to add a panel advising neighbour what garden flower to grow that are good for bees – buttercups, borage, sunflowers, lavender and so on.

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

Although you reference your litter picks here it is better included in the following section, but we do appreciate that removing litter especially at the beach is positive for environmental protection. We were delighted to see your tidy town beach toy box for borrowing and returning toys. That is a great idea for this location so far from shops, hope it is appreciated. You also encourage sustainable travel modes by rendering your roads safe and attractive for walking and providing restful stops for cyclist. Do your neighbours pool cars for school drops – another good idea. Are there opportunities to separate waste in the neighbourhood to encourage re-cycling? Good to see that you use attractive sea stones for planter surrounds. How do you manage to water your plant pots? Are there opportunities for your community to use a water butts? Do any neighbours have a composting bin. You might also have some bee keeping or vegetable growing activities – great for offsetting food miles. There are many great ideas online and also as previous adjudicators have suggested you should look at the Tidy Towns Handbook which has a section on this category and also contact MCC environmental section for ideas and support

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is fantastic that for such a small group you manage to take part in the An Taisce Clean up and also the Clean Coasts clean up. You also indicate that you have support from your young community we did notice your signs highlighting your participation in the Clean Coasts – it might be good to remove these before the winter winds as they may themselves become litter. Please send photographs of your clean up next time. They are obviously effective along with your ongoing litter patrols as we could not find any litter anywhere. The pier although clean could be improved with a little tidying of the boat equipment and signage. We, like previous adjudicators see the old camper and green container as distracting from the lovely amenity of the pier and beach area. Any chance of screening these if removal is not an option. But you deserve a congratulations for your interest in keeping Bullmouth clean and tidy.

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

You live in a very beautiful rural area where your neighbours contribute to enhancement with neatly trimmed grass margins, freshly painted boundary walls and fences, and well-kept gardens. This adds to the experience of the visit. There are a couple of vacant /derelict properties that maybe could be given a paint job. We were curious about the large dwelling with the unusual castle type designed walls? Is this in use, perhaps as a holiday home. We did note the especially nice garden with the ox-eyed -daisies at the entrance you referenced. The single storey dwelling at the pier is also very attractive and contributes nicely to the area with the stone boundary walls and lovely landscaped site and generous low planting facing the public area. Overall, the area presents well and reflects the respect and pride your community has for Bullmouth.

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

In this category you tell us that you regularly trim the roadside verges and your diligence in this regard was noted. This does allow for ease of passage for both walkers and cyclists so well done for considering the amenity and safety of these road users, especially as the access road is both narrow and winding. We were impressed with your nice, sweet stone sign - Béal A'Bhuláin, with the coastal theme, well maintained and a welcome invitation to the area. It might be advised to embellish this entry point with some in ground perennials. The area at the pier would benefit from surface improvement and demarcation for car parking and as previously mentioned rationalisation of the signage and an area information panel. Not sure if the slip road is private or public. We did admire the fuchsia

and dog rose along this route to the pier and the lovely aspect towards the coast and Inishbiggle

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for the opportunity to visit your area. You are inspirational for such a small community to participate in the Tidy Town Competition. We also appreciate that you have the interests of the community your visitors and the environment at heart.