

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogher - An Clochar** Ref: **459**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **355**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	46	48
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	23	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	70	72
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	37
TOTAL MARK	600	344	355

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 area and hear about all the rich heritage resources you have and about the obvious great pride you have for your locality. We are delighted that you have sustained your interest in the competition for 17 years. We read that your committee number is 4 which is a decline from last year and that you have 8 active volunteers. Despite the drop in members, you continue to have good collaborative engagement with a broad range of groups, state bodies, academic institutions and local community, business and environmental groups and of course key interaction with your school community at St. Angelas. All adding up to enrich your projects, knowledge and enjoyment of Clougher. You engage in a number of means of communication and it was delightful to see on lime the video clips from your recent Mayo Day celebrations – fantastic attendance and great talent being displayed. You have chosen the re-thatching of your Clougher Heritage Centre as your special project, and it looks wonderful and a great location to host your recent May event.

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

You haven't a traditional village form as such but seem to have threaded the broader community together through focusing on key community facilities, the natural environment and notable junction points in Clougher. Your Heritage Centre looks wonderful and is beautifully maintained, bursting with colour and historical artefacts. The new thatch sets off the other lovely vernacular features of an atypical small labourer cottage nestling beside the forge and displaying heritage agricultural machinery outside. The picnic area, information boards sit well in the garden. For its size it is hard to imagine that your garden could capture all your recent music and dancing event which your video showed plus a lovely working fire cooking bread inside. Good to see the AED and your plant swap located here too as well as your loop walk directional signs. It is generous of your community to help develop the Clougher Bog Loop Walk, Newtown Forest Trail and Clooncundra Walks and allow your heritage centre to be a supporting hub. Your other cluster of community buildings include your school and community centre/ work hub which had nice window boxes. These sit nicely in the crossroads together with the neat Drum Inn pub with planters and proud Mayo flags. This junction is a street scape focus for the community with information panels and lovely planter at this junction also. Your history is further embedded in the locality with signage attributed to the famous Clougher House and Lodge and lovely stone legacy walls retain from the estate. You also have a legacy of townland name stones at some crossroads with nice simple text. Drum graveyard is a very peaceful spot with historic resonance and reflects respect through its high maintenance.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your work in this category is quite varied. You provide nice bursts of colour in planting throughout the area at junctions and key location such as across from the school. The Heritage Centre has nice boundary hedging, perennials complemented by generously planted flower boxes. The adjacent grotto is also well adorned. The holy well is quite distinctive in style, nice to see the strong stone boundary definition and the dedication to non-baptised babies pre-1900. Your landscaping at the flowerbeds here is a credit to you great to see care being given to the local built heritage and history. You tell us that your group diligently continue to maintain the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail which I had the pleasure of walking a few years ago – thank you it is of great benefit to others beyond your community. Great that you also have specific local Clougher Loop Walks that provide for exercise and interaction with nature and a rich level of biodiversity. Although time didn't allow to experience these, we did encounter the waymarking and want to return but regardless they are great green space assets for the community away from traffic.

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

Congratulations on securing funding recently for your biodiversity project. Your social media is great testament to your discovery of significant flora and fauna. Your posts /video on updates shows your enthusiasm to let your community appreciate their local environment. The work on monitoring of moths, survey on bees, breeding birds is wonderfully enlightening. Thanks for the great photographs and links. Securing an ecologist and ATU students to carry out an audit on bog biodiversity is a fantastic project. Tell us about the results in next year's application. Bogs are great hosts for nature and have unique ecosystems as well as offering climate change mitigation. Your community will learn lots from your commissioned work. Even without having this unique bog landscape on your doorstep you also have a swathe of other habitats supported by your large rural area where trees, hedges, stone walls, woodlands and grasslands. Tell us more about how you link this in with your school's program where we see the Green School modules are being taught. We see you also carry out walks and talks which for a small community is an incredible feat, well done to all. Well done on the pine marten boxes and let us know about the progress of your bog berry harvest next year

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

Wonderful that you have two community polytunnels growing vegetables in the community, in your school and at the Heritage Centre. This contributes to offsetting "food miles" and is a real living education for your schoolchildren. We noticed your lovely shelf offering plants to swap/takeaway...I was nearly tempted to indulge. Water harvesting is such a good practice and effective and convenient means of watering your produce. Do they also harvest water at the school site? Do they have a water refill station at the school or the BGAA? A leap forward for eliminating single use plastic bottles. Does your community share school runs? This is great for reducing carbon emissions, similar to you having a facility in the community centre for remote workers. The recycling hub at BGAA is quite accessible for you community. You encourage sustainable movements also through the development of your loop walks, do you have any numbers on the scale of usage? Great to see on your social media that you also make suggestions to change behaviour in favour of sustainable actions. Keep up the good work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Lovely to see the photos showing the artwork from the pupils at the local school promoting anti-litter activities. Having it made into a calendar will keep it as a reminder for the whole community. This message is also clear from your notices of advice in the community to Keep Clougher Clean. It all seems to be working as your area despite incorporating a wide span was practically litter free and very tidy. Wonderful that this message is reinforced by your Spring Clean up and your regular vigilance on the various walking route where signs on the trail that we encountered were in great condition. Complements to you and also to you CEE team. The bottle bank at BGAA was very tidy also on the day of inspection. The anti-litter message is working well in conjunction with your vigilance.

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

The area is characterised by low density rural housing with a range of house types and dates. In general, there didn't appear to be much dereliction. You indicate that you encourage residents to keep road frontages, boundaries, and entrances free from weeds and litter. This seems to be working as most properties presented very well with nice boundary treatment and landscaping, all reflecting pride of place and giving a clean and tidy appearance. We agree that your promotion of community clean ups reciprocally encourage residents to maintain a high standard within their own private boundaries too. Applaud to all.

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

You tell us that your diligence along with the help your CES employee helps maintain a high standard of approach roads and verges. These did look well maintained, clean and full of wildflowers, backed in most locations by distinctive dry-stone walling and native hedging. You have focused your bed planting at key junctions, and these were brimming with colour, most noticeable at the school junction and at your Heritage Centre Junction. Your Marian Shrine at this location reinforces the community sense of place and point of arrival especially for those embarking on your loop walks. All your buildings also at key junctions are well presented, are in good structural condition, complements to your local publican as well. Your pride and value in your loop walks you tell us have been enhanced further by planting native trees for both visual amenity and to heighten the arrival points to Clougher. You included a photograph displaying rows of daffodils in Spring along the approach south of the school junction, well done for reinforcing entry to your area in such a nice manner – any plans for spring bulbs elsewhere? Your Millenium Grotto is another feature along your approach road. This could be improved by removing some of the broken artefacts, exhausted candles and plastic flowers. Maybe the planters are not necessary either as the stone

encasement of the grotto is attractive and clean in combination with the ground planting. Directional signage is generally good, at some locations ensure vegetation doesn't screen the fingerposts ones.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to have an opportunity to visit your area and see the level of appreciation and work that you have invested including that in providing walking recreational opportunities for all. It will be interesting to have the results of your biodiversity audit soon and it should reveal more interesting species and habitats that you can inform your community about on your social media sites. I will keep a watchful eye as I would like to return to enjoy you loop walks when time permits. Well done to you and your volunteers for your selfless dedication to the area.