

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Crossmolina - Crois Uí Mhaoilíona	Ref:	711
County:	Mayo	Mark:	318
Category:	C	Date(s):	07/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40
TOTAL MARK	600	318

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. Ath Mhor. We are absolutely delighted to see Crossmolina back in the Tidy Towns Competition again. We appreciate that the covid pandemic created challenges for society as a whole and of course tidy town committees and volunteers. But you are back now since February of this year and have already managed with a committee of 6 to rally 12 regular volunteers. Not only do we read about them but saw them busy at work on Church Street on our evening visit. You have plenty of historical experience in the competition and have already reached out for support from local community, sports and service groups, your local authority and other public bodies. Well done for having the motivation to link in with the local school and Foroige group. You tell us you have some collaborative ideas for autumn 2026. So, you have hit the ground running. You have tackled the removal of overgrowth and ivy on a lovely stone wall at Chapel Street and also cleared a lot of vegetation from the riverbank and link access of which you are deservedly proud. We are glad that you see the value of participating and see you use a number of communication channels and also saw your posts on the Community Council Facebook. We see you included a sketch and some details of a likely rejuvenation of the main streets described as a wishlist. You also listed a number of 3-year projects. It would be good if you could put these ideas into a 3–5-year plan and follow the categories in the competition for next year's application.

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

On our visit we noticed that substantial works on the flood Relief Scheme for the Deel River is advancing, this will take a while, and we can see it is causing some disruption. However, we read that it will relieve 73 homes and 41 businesses from flood risk which will be of great benefit to the community and an incentive to invest confidently in the town. In addition, we saw on your Community Council Facebook page that there is public consultation commencing on a Transport Study which will tie into your endeavours to improve accessibility for all. Hopefully these initiatives will help address the problems you are experiencing with vacancy and dereliction. It is welcome to see some of this reversing on Mullenmore Street where the old P.O. has been tastefully (no pun intended) to a lovely café. Next door the Mc Morrow pub building has also been repurposed beautifully for short term accommodation. You have a great legacy of traditional shopfronts with intact fascias and lovely lettering such as that on Walsh's, Cawley's Leonards, Hicksons and Judge's garage. Even though these premises appear vacant it is great that their frontages are still preserved. We saw the work you did on Hickson's where paint was used so effectively to animate the frontage and reduce the impact of vacancy. Great if you developed a schedule to do a few every year. It might be worth applying for a community grant from the Heritage Council as many are lovely original traditional shopfronts. There are also nice, occupied properties such as the two butchers Tolan's and Hopkins,

Sticks Bar, the Dragon Palace, Centra and Pearl Beauty to mention only some. We saw your lovely library, it would be great if the entire building was repainted and the Christmas lights removed, this would really display the buildings great architectural feature better. The Square is anchored by your well-maintained Marian shrine. We visited the grounds of your two churches. St. Marys nicely nestled on the edge of town near the site of your historic castle an St Tiernan's with impressive grounds and landscaping. The bridge and river and associated walkways are key to your streetscape and when the flood relief works permits you can remove the sandbags along Chapel Street. You have a nice well used small park area where your MUGA is located near Abbeytown. We were quite taken by the blanketing of the public area, trees, statues, bridge by knitted and crochet pieces. These brought a gaiety to the street, showed fantastic talent and creativity (the interior installations in the church in particular). We had to research to find out that the installation is called yarn bombing and what an innovative way to decorate your streetscape. Please commend the crafters.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We noticed your well distributed planters throughout the town and some lovely bedding. It would be beneficial as you indicate to increase your pollinator friendly species and also to replace planters with ground planting. Good opportunities exist near the green area at the MUGA and on the grass verge near the playground. You tell us you/MCC have plans to refurbish the playground, hopefully this will include for disable friendly play equipment too. It was being well used on the day of our visit. The Sensory Garden was a little gem to visit and a quite interesting adventure to experience all the different spaces. It must have proved a happy venue for your Mad Hatter's party. Well done to all involved. We agree that the public car park needs a visual lift. There were lots of weeds in the gravel bay, this area could be transformed with the planting of perennial and pollinator friendly species with impact such as Crocosmia, Ox -eyed daisies, Verbena – tall impact combined with colour. Well done to your young community who helped tidy up your graveyard and good to hear that you can accommodate urns at this location specifically. We didn't manage to walk the loop, time was a challenge but great to hear you maintain it. We did visit the Lough Conn quay area though and was impressed by standard and facilities available. We did take a dip on a previous occasion and appreciated the value of having the lake so close to the town.

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

Crossmolina is located in a rich natural heritage area which is blessed with a river, trees hedging, grasses wildflowers and stone wall habitats. You are close to Lough Conn too which is a Special Area of Conservation noted for its wetland and freshwater ecosystem. You already have developed a Loop walk which is a type of wildlife corridor too and you have opportunities to protect and nurture the hedgerows especially during the nesting season. You should celebrate this great natural environment by using it as a guide to your future landscaping. There are plenty of opportunities along your verges and open spaces to add some bedding with pollinator friendly planting which can be added to by colourful annuals. You could harvest wildflower seeds to encourage this. You tell us this is your intention to adopt a biodiversity approach in the future and to work with the school children on specific projects. Your own biodiversity garden we noted has been disrupted by the flood prevention measures. We did manage to peep over and spot your old information boards, composting area and your bug hotel. It will be a great project to start with again re-newing all your previous initiatives such as the bird/bat boxes and the bug hotel. You are also encouraging kitchen gardening at the Agricultural Show this year,- do you have a community vegetable garden? These are great for social interaction, not to mention the food harvest – you could start with a small herb garden plot in the town. A very important aspect also in the management for biodiversity is to raise the awareness of the community. This can be accomplished through public talks, guided walks, signage, but especially through schools where you intend to start in the autumn a good initiative. It will be great to read of your progress next year.

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

Essentially this relates to how we try to minimise our use of all resources within the community so that we reduce our environmental impact. It relates to a number of areas such as waste recycling, water conservation, reducing energy use , encouraging active transport, food and 'food miles "and even equipment, and reusable items. As a Tidy Towns committee, you can take many steps to reduce the level of resources used and to become more efficient at using resources, while at the same time reducing waste generation. Some you are already engaging in such as recycling glass, clothes, paper. You are already getting advice from the environment section of MCC on sustainable actions. The Tidy Town handbook is also a good guide and gives great ideas too. We saw that your Men's Shed made some planters from recycled materials, you tell us you guard against use of single use plastics at community events – are there other things you could do here – share car journeys to events, recycle left over food ? Do you use water butts or simple take water from the river to water plants, that's good conservation practice. Lots of GAA clubs now have water refill stations to offset the use of single use plastic bottles, maybe this might be suitable for your club or your schools /at the playground? If you have a good gardener, you can collect seeds from them for germination for your planters this would add to your proposal to collect wildflower seeds. We see you have a bus stop, is the local link bus service used frequently by many which would discourage private car usage with the attendant impact on reducing greenhouse gases? There are loads of other ideas your TY' s might have to encourage sustainable actions e.g. Swap Sales, recycle fashion events. We are happy to hear that you encourage the re-use of paint on your vacant /derelict buildings – this is of double benefit.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You indicate that the An Taisce Spring Clean was the kick start for your resurrected Tidy Town work. You combined this with a weekly litter pick and an encouragement of occupants of streets to adopt responsibility for their patch, you also are grateful that the users of Cluanin Western Care Association help out too. You provide a good range of photos to show the extent of your work to clean and enhance the town streets and river area. Well done it is a

difficult thing to energise the community after a lapsed period in which you had to deal with disruptions owing to flood risk and the ongoing construction of the flood relief works. All your work has had huge benefits for the town, and we were delighted to see that it was almost litter free. We did see some litter in the Sensory Garden, we would also recommend that you paint the approach boundary wall to the garden (where the sign is) – this would be an ideal location for a directional mural. The newly restored buildings look great, and you have painted one of the vacant properties – might be good to have a schedule for continuing on this great work as simple painting and artefacts in the window does have a great impact on streetscape amenity. We appreciate that the sandbags at the river which create a poor visual address are to be removed soon and your clearance work and repair to seating, planters and railings at the river is ongoing. The lovely sculptor of the Wader is accessible and does need a little work to restore its setting. The recycling area was spotless and benefits from the crafters humorous knitted piece here. Overall though you have returned to the path of a tidy town with great energy, well done to all the volunteers and your CE workers.

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

Here is another area where you tell us that you have long term plans to encourage the establishment of new resident's associations and introduce competition for best kept estate. You highlighted the great example of Abbeystown /Abbeyview estate and their high standard of care. The housing here presented so well with lovely, neat gardens, painted boundary walls, lovely mature trees and immaculate green areas. There is great potential for some of the grassed area to be encouraged to provide for a wildflower area without compromising their high standard. Chapel View too was looking well, mind the weeds though. Occupied housing on the village streetscape was generally well painted up and some had nice window/hanging floral displays notable was the pink painted property on Mullinmore Street. The house and outbuildings opposite St Mary's Church looked really well too.

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

The approach from the west is well maintained and good to see a path extending out as far as St Mary's Park. The eastern approach has a wonderful line of mature trees and well-maintained verges. It also supports a short cycle lane. It was good to see pedestrian crossings in the town at key locations. We see you have an Enhancement Plan (your wishlist) which shows great proposals for resurfacing and traffic calming in the centre of the town with pedestrian priority. In addition, we saw from Facebook that you currently have public consultation ongoing on a Transport Plan – hopefully next year we will be learning of resourced plans to advance some of these measures that could regenerate the centre. You also tell of proposals for enhancing entry points and increasing biodiversity appropriate species in landscaping.

Concluding Remarks:

The approach from the west is well maintained and good to see a path extending out as far as St Mary's Park. The eastern approach has a wonderful line of mature trees and well-maintained verges. It also supports a short cycle lane. It was good to see pedestrian crossings in the town at key locations. We see you have an Enhancement Plan (your wishlist) which shows great proposals for resurfacing and traffic calming in the centre of the town with pedestrian priority. In addition, we saw from Facebook that you currently have public consultation ongoing on a Transport Plan – hopefully next year we will be learning of resourced plans to advance some of these measures that could regenerate the centre. You also tell of proposals for enhancing entry points and increasing biodiversity appropriate species in landscaping.