

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Islandeady - Oileán Éadaí** Ref: **2384**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **220**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	35
Streetscape & Public Places	80	30
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	20
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	35
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	25
TOTAL MARK	600	220

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.

We are delighted that you have enlisted your community to enter into the Tidy Town competition and that you recognise the benefits it can bring to your area while enhancing pride of place and strengthening community spirit. You already have an established committee of 11 and can rally 30 volunteers that can lend themselves to align with the objectives of the competition. You also have a framework to cross collaborate with other community focused groups such as the Community Council, Village Enhancement Group and the local parish office. Great too that you can get the support and advice of Mayo County Council, the PPN and local businesses. Also having communication channels such as your Facebook events site and local news/parish outlets is a good basis for interaction and motivation for involvement. You could formally announce your establishment on these channels now. Your scheduled community meeting in August is a good idea; make sure you organise another event with added fun focus to attract children too as these are a key asset in Tidy Town successes. We see from local media that you have been successful in securing a staggering E3.6 funding for your community hub that is fantastic news and will help repair the severance from the road and facilitate the consolidation of the village. No doubt the success of this funding for the project has been driven by your own consistent fundraising and your Futures Plan. Updating of this plan can lend itself to the creation also of a specific 3–5-year Tidy Town plan which is advised to give structure to your work and to align with the specific categories judged on in the competition. The concluding remarks are inserted to give you further specific guidance on the application. As none of the categories were filled in, we have looked at your location and adjudicated regardless and given some idea for focus on how to adapt your work for the competition. Wishing you well on your future journey with the Tidy Towns.

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

The core of your area is defined by your community facilities such as your church, GAA grounds and your community centre. St. Patricks RC Church is well maintained, painted nicely, and has a well-kept grotto area. It is serviced by the car park opposite, which has demarcated spaces and for a car park it has a fantastic view onto the lake. In this area we would suggest that you could improve the car parking space with a few planters initially, with a plan to build a raised beds perhaps at the entrance or near the lakeside with the installation of a seat longer term to give it colour, add to biodiversity and to allow for dwell time to enjoy the view. The shed building in the car park should be given a fresh painting. It is also a good spot for a nature mural or an information board on the area. Well done on being part of the recent touchstone trails. The GAA grounds also convey good care and nice club colour painting. The entrance area could be improved through some planting and greater boundary definition. Again, the gable on the changing block might be a nice area for a lively mural too. The Arts officer in Mayo Co.Co can advise

on the process – unusually a collaboration between an artist and local children. Noting your intention to advance to build a new community centre in the interim the existing one could do with a directional sign on the main road. The building presented well and looks like it is being used as a work hub space during the day. Now is a good time in advance to ensure that your new community centre achieves good safe pedestrian links into the village, this should be part of the design. It is also a good time to contemplate how you will use the old community centre as it is key to your streetscape. You demarcated your local graveyard in your map identifying it as a key public space. It commands a dramatic elevated location overlooking the lake. It presented neatly and would lend itself to some improvements by painting the external wall and providing some heritage information on the site and surrounds at this location as we note there is a significant wealth of historical and archaeological in the area. We also noted your bright school across the N5. As you have not defined your catchment there are possibly other primary schools in the area also.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Islandeady area has a lovely rural setting with lots of hedgerows, trees, meadow grasslands as well as ornamental gardens. The lake is a huge natural asset too and undoubtedly contributes to local recreational enjoyment. As referenced earlier there aren't many formal green space areas from where the lake can be enjoyed within the core area. There is potential to accommodate this in the layout of your new community centre I assume. As referenced earlier there is potential also for a pocket park within your current car park area to take advantage of the views. We did notice the small picnic/fishing spot near the graveyard. It is a nice destination point for a walk or cycle within the locality. We cannot imagine that the road access route is very busy being a Cul de sac. This area has a lot of potential to be improved and developed, possibly with a clean-up, improved surfacing and management of the vegetation for wildlife. Within the village core there is as referenced lots of opportunities to develop small pockets of mixed planting. We noticed an elevated bank with stone surrounds and a plaque which appears to be neglected. It has huge potential if restored and better managed even simply as a wildlife flower area – we would suggest planting yellow rattle to suppress grass growth as it already has a range of wildflowers.

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

Similar to the previous points we would encourage planting in the ground with bee friendly pollinator friendly species – perennials especially which can be added to by colourful annuals. These should be at key points where the community can enjoy them with pride and within key sites like the GAA, church and graveyard and picnic area. Another longer-term project might be to engage in tree planting along the N5 boundary to the graveyard road. This would screen the road, reduce noise, add to biodiversity and could be a great project for engaging schoolchildren. It would also make this road a more pleasant local cycling /walking route. There are organisations that donate trees to community groups for such projects, used by many TT groups such as Trees on the Land and local authorities during Tree Week. This could also be an area where you link in with the local schools on their Green School's Program which has a module on biodiversity. The landscaping of your community centre site is a huge opportunity for the encouragement of appropriate type native planning that encourages pollination. Great that you are at design stage still – ask the advice of MCC biodiversity officer.

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 may already be engaging in such as recycling glass, clothes, paper. You can extend this through installing a water butt if needed for local watering of your public beds/planters. Lots of schools and GAA clubs now have water refill stations to offset the use of single use plastic bottles. You can use recycled materials for making planters – timber is best. If you have a good gardener, you can collect seeds from them for germination for your planters. There are also a number of your local authority staff that can give you advice and support. It may be good to see if your community centre area can accommodate an area for a community garden/poly tunnel too in the future.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have told us that your community are involved in litter picks and the area reflected your investment in keeping your area tidy. There was practically no litter within the village core, along the approach roads, at the picnic area and graveyard, school and car park. Congratulations you already have the spirit of Tidy Towns embedded in your work. Signage at the picnic area requires repair – it might be an opportunity to broaden the signage from just fishing to more general nature topic. It would be good also to remove all redundant signage and fixtures that exist along the roadside. The shed painted with the Mayo colours also needs a refresh. Many committees get involved in An Taisce Annual Spring Clean up which are a great driver of broad community involvement including children you might decide to join them also.

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

Your housing is typical of rural areas being mostly of detached houses on individual single sites, mainly single and dormer type dwelling. They generally are well presented and landscaped. The single storey dwelling beside the church was particularly nicely painted in grey with white trim to both the house and boundary walls.

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

The approach roads host a number of nice trees, hedging and lovely stone walling. There are the general standard road signage and some smaller fingerpost signs in the area. It is suggested that you could develop bespoke signage for townlands maybe within your area. Many committees use these and ground bed planting to give a welcoming image. As your area straddles a number of townlands these could be developed over time in the same style to create a geographical linkage within the area.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for the opportunity to visit Islandeady/ Rinaseer and environs. We are delighted that you have decided to establish a Tidy Towns Committee and that you see it as having benefit to your community on a range of levels. Just some advice - it is important firstly to establish the geographical boundary of your community and include this on a clear map for ease of orientation by the adjudicator. A rough sketch is insufficient. This should identify all your projects by number supported by a legend that links in with your application form. N for new and M for ongoing projects that require maintenance. Each category in the application form should be populated by relevant work in that category. Inevitably there will be an overlap between some categories but highlight the areas that are relevant to the topic. It is important to have a committee and if feasible for certain members to take ownership of particular categories – sometime members choose areas in which they are particularly interested. It is important for your success to have good communication channels with your community to ensure voluntary support and to acknowledge the work you do. Having your young community involved is critical for intergenerational mix, education and fun. The Tidy Towns website is very helpful with both general guidance and specific booklets that relate to the eight categories of focus. These explain things well and provide lots of ideas. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is also a very useful resource. And of course, ask your peers – there are many well established knowledgeable TT committees in your area. Good Luck