

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Killala - Cill Ala	Ref:	551
County:	Mayo	Mark:	245
Category:	B	Date(s):	06/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	43
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31
TOTAL MARK	600	245

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 are really delighted that Killala has decided to rejoin the Tidy Town Competition after an absence of 8 years. You tell us that you were challenged by a number of things including a long disruption from streetscape enhancement works, no doubt followed by the social challenges of the Covid pandemic too. You are back and with great energy and a lot of interesting projects for the future. Thank you for your structured entry form, clear maps, schedule of planned projects for 2026 and your plan. We would suggest that you reorganise your plan to accord with the specific categories in the competition and indicate estimated timelines for each project. You indicate that your new committee has 8 members and can rely on up to 30 volunteers – this is a great start back. You have good overlap between key local community groups, work with state bodies, local authority and RSS and have support from some local businesses too. Your plans you tell us include for collaborative work especially regarding biodiversity projects with the local NS school and have committed support from Foroige members also. You use a number of communication channels including a dedicated Facebook page which we see you are highly active on. You have chosen the sensory /biodiversity walk along the entrance to the school as your special project. A great start back into the competition and we hope it helps reinvigorate your community and enhance your wonderful town.

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

Further enhancement proposals include providing paint for refreshing, tired facades, animating vacant shop windows for instance by having graphic displays, providing places for planted hanging baskets and decluttering cables and redundant features. These proposals complement the other public realm projects such as the current ongoing resurfacing works, as well as potential for improved Wayfinding and Interpretation. Plans also include greening of the town including new street trees and planting, new civic spaces, and improved arrival experience. Whilst the current public realm enhancements project will help improve its overall appearance and character, remaining elements such as vacant and derelict buildings, vacant and inactive shop frontages and building facades, poor quality public realm and lack of gateway features, create an overall poor visitor experience. Killala is a place to be immensely proud of with its distinctively rich historical heritage and attractive harbour setting on the Moy Estuary. The elevated and undulating and informal plan of the streetscape gives the place a strong character as does the multi-generational historic buildings and extensive legacy of stonework used on walls and buildings. The streets are narrow with well-defined building frontages. You told us of the recent street resurfacing in the centre of the town which looks well and gives emphasis to the main “square “ junction area and no doubt these have improved accessibility for all. You have a number of attractive shopfronts, such as the Arch Bar, the Kiosk Café, John Lynn & Sons, the Village Inn, The Beauty Box and Lavelle's Pharmacy to mention some. However,

vacancy, dereliction, inactive shop frontages and tired facades detract from what is an interesting streetscape. Murals such as Kathleen Lynn need to be renewed. A little investment in paint and refreshing facades, more animation on vacant shop windows such as graphic/historical displays would be transformative. These should be complemented by more greening, floral baskets, decluttering of cables and removal of redundant street furniture. Key public and community buildings do look well such as St Patrick's Church, the Church of Ireland Cathedral (closed unfortunately) and of course the drama of the round tower. The Town Park has a wonderful walled garden setting and is well linked into the Greenway. The N.S. has a lovely siting and is well maintained. Quay Street provides a great amenity and learning from the information boards along the route, the quay area needs better surfacing, street furniture and additional landscaping to allow for pleasant dwell time. You are pleased to let us know of the recent improvement to the Community Centre which has had façade improvements, installation of a lift and improved insulation. It certainly must be busy with all the services it accommodates. The car park has been lined also. You tell us that you are planning to address the very neglected beds here as we did notice and the landscaping. Great if you can add perennial pollinator friendly species. Is there any potential for a small pocket park here as the frontage is quite barren and does not accommodate any outdoor space for lingering or interaction. The stone name sign needs lettering painted too.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Town Park is a little treasure and with the MUGA and playground. It had loads of life the day we visited. It is generally well maintained; you tell us of your upkeep of trees and ivy removal. We see that some of the playground equipment needs repair as does the signage. The adjacent historical Fever Hospital building needs ivy removed and an upgraded presentation as it does add to the character with the surrounding stone walls. The trees here add to the character, and birds enjoyed the space also. We do agree that the park needs to be refreshed and should accommodate more seating and picnic areas at a minimum. The bedding at the adjoining car park looked well. We walked all of the connecting Greenway from this location to the community centre. It was a lovely experience with the woodlands and good surface, we noted your lighting too. We assume the other section is similar. Is the greenway used much by the community to access the community centre? Any plans to highlight the old railway infrastructure on this route? The bedding at the car park near the cathedral was nice, more colours should be added to the bedding at St Patrick's Church. Hanging baskets and planters are attractive in places especially Lynn's pub. As referenced previously business premises could be encouraged to increase their floral displays. Planting up the relatively empty sloped area on Market Street would have a dramatic visual impact.

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

Killala is located in a rural coastal setting where there is a rich natural heritage. It is blessed with trees, hedging, grasses, wildflowers and stone wall habitats. The town is greatly advantaged also by having the amazing location at the mouth of the Moy Estuary. There is a wealth of coastal habitats along the shore including sandy beaches, sand dunes, saltmarsh, mudflats, sand-flats and rocky shore. The Moy Estuary itself we note is designated for nature conservation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and is particularly important for marine wildlife. As suggested, we also visited Ross Blue Flag Beach which is another great natural asset for the town. You tell us that you also have made efforts to enrich this biodiversity by introducing a mixed mowing regime on the Ballina Road and by introducing yellow rattle which has increased wildflowers growth here including orchids – what a joy. As we referenced earlier your greenway not only allows for nature to flourish but also for your community and visitors to experience it. Your highlighted project was a phase of your sensory /biodiversity garden along the pathway into the school. Well done for embarking on this collaborative project with the school and completing it in great time. The school already supports lovely, mature trees, and these new trees and plants will further enrich biodiversity here as well as adding to the joy of arrival at the . It will also contribute to their green school program hopefully. You tell us you had a Wildlife and Nature Plan developed in Killala in 2014 that you want to update. Lots of TT committee have prepared bespoke Biodiversity Plans for their area this might be an idea that you could discuss with the Biodiversity Officer in MCC.

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 of glass and supporting the re-turn scheme. You should also seek advice from the environment section of MCC on sustainable actions. The Tidy Town handbook is also a good guide and gives great ideas too. Notwithstanding this you tell us of the energy saving alterations you have made to the Community Centre building, great stuff and the transfer of the community van to electric power. You hope also to install EV chargers at the centre soon too. Do you avail of the compost at Rathroen Amenity Centre? Do you harvest rainwater for your planters?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is great that the community participates in the Spring Annual clean up and you are to be commended for segregating the subsequent waste collection. You also indicate that you that your N.S. children get involved in litter collection in the school grounds and town park – a great lesson in civic responsibility. You also relay that you have regular litter patrols also. Unfortunately, we did encounter a good few litter black spots. The area near (steps) and the access to the round tower had lots of litter, the recycling area near the old handball alley was very unkempt and litter was lodged at a number of places here. However, the balance of public spaces, streets, greenway, town park,

approach roads, quay and beach area were clean. We appreciate that it will take time for your committee to be on top of all the litter and we understand that you have to deal with the impact of passing tourist too.

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

You tell us that a number of housing estates have active resident's associations. We did see that the housing areas had well maintained open spaces and planting and weeds seem to be under control. It is heartening to read that you support the residents with a lawnmower for communal use and also provide funding to cover some of the cost of flowers and plants. Churchfield Manor has a great area of open space, nice trees at the entrance. There is great potential to develop ground planting here and a wildflower meadow or small orchard area here- possibly in the rear open space which is of good scale to accommodate general play as well as these enhancements. Many residents maintain their properties very well and there are some lovely gardens in this estate. Seaview Terrace was also nicely maintained and has the advantage of a lovely stone boundary wall onto the open space. Church Street has some lovely residential properties and the property referenced off the square painted pink looks great. Good to see some uptake in refurbishments imminent, it would be wonderful also to see the Deanery restored. Might be worthwhile considering a competition for best kept estate, always a good motivator

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

The approach road from Ballina is attractive with generous verges, an extensive footpath network, cycle lanes and lots of trees and hedging, bounded by fine old stone walls. Good footpath access along Courthouse Street towards Crossmolina. New bespoke signage with some planting at both approaches would give a better announcement to the town so hopefully this will form part of your new plans. We already noted the new surface enhancement on the town streets which are welcome enhancements. The quay area would benefit from similar hard landscaping upgrades.

Concluding Remarks:

It is wonderful that you have decided to rejoin the competition, and we appreciate the work you have done since that recent decision last winter. We suggest that you review the Tidy Towns website. It is helpful with both general guidance and specific booklets that relate to the eight categories of focus prepared since you last entered the competition. These explain things well and provide lots of ideas. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is also an especially useful resource for your landscaping planning and for linking in on projects with your school and Foróige.