

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmaine - Cill Mheáin** Ref: **1094**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **364**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	44	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	29	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	71	73
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
TOTAL MARK	600	352	364

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 your detailed application, photographs and maps. It is welcome to see you aligning the UN SDGs with your Tidy Town work. For a small village you have to be commended in sustaining a committee of 8 and attracting a further 14 volunteers to help with your work. It is amazing too that the village can support so many other community groups which you collaborate with in addition to state agencies and your local authority. You recognise the value of your young community and include both schools and your youth club in your projects. The community centre appears to be a great hub of activity and a focus for building on collaboration. You communicate to the village in a range of ways including print media, radio and social media for which you indicate that you have a large following. Well done as communication is key to sustain interest and get as much volunteer help as needed. The pictures of your volunteers and activities give a good flavour of the success of your community networking and beneficial work. We are delighted that your membership of the Tidy Town community for 16 years has contributed to your progress, created environmental enhancements, awareness and appreciation of your village. You highlight the rehabilitation of your 9 roadside beds as the project you are particularly proud of this year.

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

Kilmaine has a well ordered traditional linear village streetscape widening at the south with the suggestion of a historic marketplace. The buildings along the main street are a mix of residential and commercial uses mainly two storeys in form. The edges of the village reflect more modern era structures single and two storey detached dwellings. In general, the streetscape reflects a good standard of care. You tell us of the two residential buildings recently restored and painted up in strong striking colours, these looked really well. They complemented some of the well-kept traditional styled commercial premises such as John Walsh's, Maloney's Bar, and Murphy's. Although there are pockets of vacancy /dereliction these do not dominate the streetscape and hopefully will be redeveloped in time. Good to hear that your key community building, the community centre is due for an upgrade. This area hosts a nice assessable collection of community buildings and facilities, including your playground, library and community garden. Seating within the village affords opportunities for good community interaction, these are noted to be age friendly in design and in good condition. The N.S. with its bright painted façade and boundary wall adds vibrancy to the village. The Abbey and historic graveyard located elevated off the main street is of great interest in the village streetscape and was resplendent with wildflower growth. The attractive St Patricks Church was worth the walk to see the spectacular Harry Clarke-stained glass window and the nicely landscaped setting. We noted a number of particularly striking two storey period buildings in the village and environs. It is great to have these links to the past. Nice also to see St Patricks Tce., the more recent infill housing on the village street strengthening the village core. The facilities at Kilmaine Community Grounds demonstrates your interest in sports and congratulations on the

development of your new astro pitch with floodlighting. It is great also to see that you support the three marked walking trails that facilitate loop walking routes in the village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your photographs show that your landscaping including the planters, pots and baskets, community garden is a critical focus of your group. It was a major task to tackle the renewal of your large ground planters, but the result is great. They convey a colourful abundance of diverse species, including many pollinators and truly give a welcoming impression to the village from both main approach roads. They also give good relief from the swath of grass verges and nestle nicely into the stone surrounds. The pots, planters and window boxes that are generously located throughout the village look great and must require a bit of effort to keep watered and in good condition, but the results are great for adding vibrancy, colour and an element of natural environment within the streetscape. I would concur with last year's adjudicators note regarding the potential to regenerate the small square along the main street. I agree that the cars should be removed and the surface differentiated from the road surface at a minimum. This would allow for the development of a pocket park area that could support seating and container planting that could support trees or ornamental grasses to give enclosure and safety from the traffic. Your overture to paint the low rise building and include for wall planting might be a start to this vision. Mayo CoCo Architect Dept. may also be able to give support in design and development through the rural regeneration grants.

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

Congratulations on your bedding at the school entrance it was alive with insects on the day of the visit. The historic graveyard left dedicated to wildlife is dominated with the waves of ox-eyed daisies and looks fantastic, in succession to your spring flowers. Be careful to ensure the minimal paths through this area are maintained to allow for safe access and an experience of both the natural and built heritage. The walk to the church was backdropped by great birdsong confirming the support for a range of habitats. The bed outside the church with nasturtiums will be a great asset for butterflies to lay their eggs. Great that you have over the years planted trees and are enjoying the benefits now. Well done also to your SSE workers who support "No Mow May" with all the benefits for wild bees and pollinators.

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

Your community garden, including your polytunnel is a super venture and looked well organised on the day of the visit. This project sits better in this category as you are involved on producing food locally saving food travel miles and your practices including composting and seed /bulb saving and distribution . You also make use of water butts at a number of locations and tell us of your free supply of recycled mushroom compost for potting. It is great to be able to use your own compost too for the community garden and also to recycle leaf litter. You also encourage sustainable community practices such as the sharing of catering resources and the offer of a platform through WhatsApp for individuals to recycle unwanted goods. It must have been rewarding to secure almost 5 tonnes of goods for WEEE recycling which is an ongoing event you host with WEEE Ireland. Your own local recycling area is very accessible and well done on adding the additional receptacle to take cans. It is great to hear that the rural link bus service has increased in frequency and allows more opportunities to avail of sustainable travel modes.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was almost litter free on the day of our visit, just a few discarded cigarette boxes were seen. You indicate that you participate as a community in the Spring Clean up and your photographs show the involvement of some industrious children litter picking. To maintain your high standard, you also do a weekly litter pick. This has been influential in ensuring respect for your public realm and the wider natural environment and the results are apparent with such a high standard cleanliness in the village. All bins were clean too which reflects good coordination with MCC waste collection. The recycling area beside the community centre was very tidy as was the playground. The controlled use of signage on the business premises and on the approach roads is commendable. The general appearances of the premises in the village express a clean character and overall, your community is working well together and benefiting from all environmental improvements.

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

Residential properties are located along the main streets, the approaches and in the two main housing developments namely Riverside Close and An Cluain. The residential street properties in that main are being maintained well, the recently refurbished properties on the Main Street reflect the benefits of refurbishment and clever use of bold colours which energise the street. The house at the corner of the road to the church looked exceptionally well kept. The terraced housing at the end of the town, namely St Patricks Terrace looks really well enhanced by the array of plant pots and hanging baskets. Well done to the residents. A visit to Riverside Close reflects the benefits of your tree planting which gives the residents good visual amenity and an enjoyable natural environment. The open space is a little haven. Removal of the weeds within the estate road and paths would give a better image, residents should be encouraged to carry out some maintenance as the SSE employees may not have the resources. The same applies to An Cluain. Despite this the houses are generally well maintained and some displayed nice planting and support for pollinators. Single housing along the approach roads support good hedgerows trees and planting and show good maintenance.

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

The approach roads present an attractive entry into the village. The Galway approach has a clean sweep of wide

grass verges, with a nice tree line, generous planters and a walkway link to your loop trail. Future plans might include for reducing the grass cover and increasing the wildflower cover in the interests of both biodiversity and visual appeal. The approach from Ballinrobe Road has a higher concentration of sloping beds the verges here narrower than the other approach. The beds which you have recently renewed were full of a diversity of flower and shrub species, with great colour and are a credit to your hard work. Great to see that you celebrate your interest in promoting biodiversity with your entrance signage declaring your commitment to protecting pollinators. We already relayed how we enjoyed the link road to the Church affording great sweeping vista over the countryside, full of birdsong and habitats.

Concluding Remarks:

Despite the inclement weather during our visit, we got to enjoy the essence of the village and learn about all your community's hard work and view the results of your years of investment. It would be good if next year you had a structure Tidy Town plan prepared for a 3-to-5-year period. This will give you focus for the competition, note projects should be aligned with the 8 categories. The plan and also can be useful to leverage supports and resources from other agencies. Thanking you for the opportunity to learn more about Kilmaine.