

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Knockmore - An Cnoc Mór	Ref:	921
County:	Mayo	Mark:	233
Category:	B	Date(s):	07/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	31
Streetscape & Public Places	80	28
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	29
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	31
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31
TOTAL MARK	600	233

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 absolutely delighted to welcome you to the Tidy Towns Competition. Your established Village Enhancement Group are well aligned to the similar goals of the competition. You tell us that you have a committee of 7 and can rely on 15 volunteers which is fantastic for such a small community. You also get support from Mayo County Council, their community employment workers and are hopeful for sponsorships from local business. Keep reaching out, key advice and resources can be had from the Environmental Officer, Biodiversity Officer and the Heritage Officer in the Council too. You already have some help from the local Foróige group and anticipate that they will be a good source of youth support for your new committee in the future. You selected the recent drainage works along the approach road R310 where open drains have been piped and covered over and seeded as your special project and new village welcome signs erected. General advice is included in the conclusions section but in general your application and map were easy to follow. Thank you for that.

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

Knockmore is a traditional linear street village that is located on the busy R310. It has a lovely backdrop of Nephin and has the adjacent amenity of Lough Conn Your main community buildings cluster in the centre anchored by your fine Christ the King church which has many fine mature trees within the curtilage. We noticed your old pump here which appears to be linked to the water supply well done. Adjoining is your well maintained Knockmore Rathduff Recreation and Resource Centre. The car park at this location is well placed to service your GAA pitches as well as the centre and church. Other key buildings in the village include Brogan's pub which is nicely painted to be coordinated with the residence and outbuildings adjoining. Some housing straddles the main street while a scheme of houses is located opposite the Daybreak shop and petrol station.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Knockmore being predominately located in a rural area has a lovely natural setting. You have enhanced this with your extensive tree line, hedge planting and low landscaping which lines the approaches as well as the streets within the village and residential boundaries. We noticed a line of young trees along the road near the Daybreak shop which suggested you have a program of continuous tree planting that's fantastic. The church grounds are a nice parkland oasis with very fine trees adding to the layout. Your loop walk which time only permitted a short excursion either end is a community treasure offering a peaceful trek for residents and visitors. We noticed your good surfaces which renders it very accessible and the colourful painted seating along the main road section is a

nice touch and opportunity for resting. We stopped like others on the day at your picnic area and took a saunter down to the lake. You tell us you have plans for this picnic area. It would be ideal to add bedding with perennials, preferable pollinator friendly here, planters would not be as suitable. It is a pity that there is no direct view of the lake and mountain from here maybe some conservative tree removal might resolve this. Also, if the green area had some low boundary fencing it would make it safer for children too. We liked your information board on the loop walk at this location and having the car parking area allows for a trailhead start on the loop. A nice development overall. You have trees in planters in the pub car park, some floral planting on the raised bank area here would add a welcome dash of colour.

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

As referenced you are located in a rich natural area which is blessed with trees hedging, grasses wildflowers and stone wall habitats. You are close to Lough Conn which is a Special Area of Conservation noted for its wetland and freshwater ecosystem. You tell us you value the hedges along the Loop walk and ensure these are protected during 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 extensive verges to add some bedding with pollinator friendly planting which can be added to by colourful annuals. The sloped embankment area opposite the Daybreak would be an ideal location for a wildflower meadow, you could reduce mowing and harvest wildflower seeds from the environs to plant here including yellow rattle which would suppress the grass growth – a good project to link in with your enthusiastic Foroige group. Particular care should be taken in environmentally sensitive areas near the lakeshore, where grasslands and shoreline vegetation should be managed sensitively to support pollinators, native plant species and local wildlife. Another very important aspect of biodiversity is to raise the awareness of the people living in the vicinity and also of visitors to that area. This may be achieved through public talks, guided walks and signage, but especially through youth groups your nearest school and maybe your local community council. It is most important for the community to be encouraged to feel ownership of the village to the adjacent rich natural heritage. You could get guidance from MCC Biodiversity and Heritage officers.

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 tell us you intend installing a water butt to facilitate local watering of your public beds/planters, 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. 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. It may be good to see if your community/resource centre area can accommodate an area for a community garden/poly tunnel if your community is interested. You tell us that you have a frequent local link bus service which is a great asset and encourages mass transport rather than private car usage with the attendant impact on greenhouse gases. With such an enthusiastic Foroige club there is a lot of potential for sustainable actions through recycling for events, reducing waste at event etc – there is a lot of advice on such initiatives online.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You tell us that you are involved in the annual Spring clean, and you indicate that this is a thorough day long community activity. Well done to all your volunteers involved, great to see your photos. You already have the spirit of Tidy Towns embedded in your work. It is a credit to the community that your village was practically litter free which is fantastic. You also take great care to remove weeds and keep all your communal spaces very tidy. We noted that Daybreak have screened all their fuel from view which is pleasing – great if the fencing here could be painted too. You also indicate that you host a national Foroige event which attracts over 3,500 participants. You have great praise for the young members of your club who carry out a pre and post litter collection for such a large event. Do they segregate the waste after for re-cycling? You also have indicated that other litter picks are done intermittently also. Your street furniture – benches, poles, signs – especially your new ones were in good condition. You could remove/tidy up some signs near the gate at the lake – some are faded and unnecessary. However, a big congratulations to all for the efforts you have made to make Knockmore look so well.

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

As previously indicated your housing consists mainly of individual sites which flank the main road. There is very little dereliction in the village. These houses all looked well maintained and hosted nice gardens and good boundary treatment. At the southern end of the village there is a small housing development, relatively new looking with a nice design and well-presented gardens and some with pv solar panels, good to see.

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

Your special project related to the advancement by MCC of the piping the open drain along the R310 and covering this over with gravel and topsoil and grass seed. All this done now leave some room for pollinator friendly bedding perhaps at intervals to add to the well-kept verges and nice tree line along both approaches. You have erected your new signs and these look well. We noted your bilingual text with a lovely image of Lough Conn and Nephin – another opportunity for ground planting at these sign locations. The main road is heavily trafficked and good to see you have traffic calming and a pedestrian crossing near Daybreak. An additional crossing near the church and GAA

grounds would be beneficial too. It is good to see that your footpath extends for the whole area of the village encouraging safe access to community facilities and your loop walk.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for the opportunity to visit Knockmore. We are delighted that you have decided to establish a Tidy Towns Committee and that you see it as having benefit to your community. Just some advice. Your map was clear and sufficient, for next year you should itemise all your projects on this map indicating which are new and which are maintenance. This should identify projects by number supported by a legend that links in with your application form. 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 in your committee certain members who will take ownership of particular areas – sometime members choose areas they are particularly interested in. 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 – so keep up the social media posts. Having your young community, school children plus your Foróige Club 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