

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Louisburgh - Cluain Cearbán** Ref: **564**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **372**
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	56	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	52	54
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	39	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	26	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	40
TOTAL MARK	600	359	372

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 would like to welcome your 13 dedicated diligent workers to the 2026 Tidy Towns competition as your involvement is much appreciated. With 35 volunteers and support from a range of local businesses, your local schools and public agencies it is clear that there is a high level of engagement between your committee and the wider community. We are delighted to read that you can garner support too from other community groups such as the Men's Shed, GAA and local Clean Coasts. You tell us you also raise funds through table quizzes, a pop-up café at the local Friday market and the re-turn scheme. You also tell us that you have strong links with the two local schools and have plans to expand mutual projects and you recently received support from students as a result of their fundraising. You communicate through lots of channels and have a lively Facebook page we see. You have highlighted your scheduling of watering and dead heading your village planters as your special project this year – Flower Power as you call it and it is essential to keep these looking at their best – well done for all that dedication. Your involvement with Tidy Towns over two decades now has clearly made a significant contribution to Louisburgh.

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

The attractive setting of Louisburgh means that any visit to your lovely village is always an enjoyable one. Your layout is a good example of a planned cruciform street pattern interconnecting at the square. The weighbridge here reflecting your historic function as a market town. The good news is that the mixed-use terraced streets are still fairly intact and even if your commercial function has declined other economies like tourism supports services now take their place. We see that you have a built heritage historic project ongoing – The Village Shop. You tell us about the outputs. We would caution against more signage on elevations, although QR codes can be discreet. Is there a capacity to integrate this project with a school project and bring more local involvement into it? Maybe your shop heritage trail idea could be expanded to include local history and natural heritage too for a broader reach of audience? The Heritage Council supports these storyboard trails. We can understand your interest in the shops as there are many good operating shops with attractive shopfronts such as Tia, Seven Wonders, Bun Abhainn, By the River and Books at One and Tuffy's to mention a few. In addition, the community have managed well to retain the shopfront/signage legacy of older shops, Oifig, Morrisons, Lyons, Café, where these have changed uses. Colour on full elevations of multiple properties on both commercial and residential coupled with your window boxes gives a vibrant impression. We see some large commercial properties for sale, hopefully these will find new owners soon. Some vacant shops such as the old Butchers /Tuffy's could lend themselves to temporary shopfront displays of heritage or community interest. Good to see renovation and infill works on your Market Square corner site. You

have used this old marketplace to good effect as a public realm area, public seating as provided on the streets encourages dwell time and interaction, well done. Key community buildings include your library and Grainne Mhaol centre housed together at St Catherines church, we hear from local media the latter is due for renovations, good. Your Church and Secondary School, Health Centre and Garda Station create a good community hub. The school was buzzing with summer camps on our visit. Nice having the primary school on the Torreen Road accessible by footpath, didn't notice bike parking – maybe to the rear? The GAA pitch is another defining element in the village close to housing and with single path access too but no safe pedestrian crossing we note. You tell us that at your recent public consultation on A Reimagining of Louisburgh that the community raised concerns about issues relating to safe walkability and adequate car parking. Good luck with advancing the identified needed improvements. You might let us know the outcomes next year. You are also planning you tell us to explore best use of your Town Hall. It has a nice central location, distinctive design and is in use for your weekly market and café. It is good that its long-term use is being examined as well as the requirements for adaptation to future uses.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You tell us how you organise, distribute and manage the multiple window boxes and planters located generously throughout the village. Great initiative, we are also impressed that you have increased the specie mix in ground planters to include more pollinator friendly species. Loved the beds outside the school and your nice message of promise of more in 2027. Fantastic that you are introducing nasturtiums at locations too, butterflies and other pollinators love them for nectar, and the small white butterfly specifically seeks out the plant to lay eggs. Your striking abundance of purple petunias looks great in the carts and flower boxes but remember these have little pollination value. The grotto is eye catching, painted up so well and given a nice parklet setting. We peaked into the Santa Maria campus and noticed that the bedding near the entrance needs attention and has loads of potential – used maybe intermittently? In contrast the church grounds are beautifully maintained and a good parking location for the village. We also see the community garden close by a nice accessible space. We noticed that you took advice from last year's adjudicator and placed your three-tier planter in the square with herbs available for all, it looks great. Scott's Island riverside park at the bridge crossing is a great asset for the community. Catering for lots of recreational and amenity requirements. You have put picnic seats here and good information on flora and fauna along the Bunowen River. Noticed that locals use this area well, especially for dog walking. We did visit Carrowmore beach; we appreciate that you have excluded it this year in view of construction works, which are well under way. Great investment in facilities by Fáilte Ireland/MCC let us know next year how this beautiful beach location is working for the community and visitors with the benefit of the new infrastructure and tell what public realm works improvements have come about. Thanks for the update on the tree planting. Where have these been planted in public area, tell us and show locations next year. Is this an annual event for Tree Week. We notice it ties in with your Biodiversity Action Plan actions if so.

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

We looked at your Biodiversity Plan and see that there are a great number of feasible actions here. Are you using the plan as an annual schedule of actions? We see you have developed the natural wildflower areas at Scott's Island, and these do look really well and with the signage and walkway through the grassed area both relay the intention and benefits of increased biodiversity to the community. You tell us you intend expanding on this meadow areas next year. Well done. Is there any progress on introducing nature-based solutions along the river catchment as described in your river study? You mentioned the use of FIT counts – do you upload the results to the Biodiversity Database? This would be a great project to do with schoolchildren and very easy with the app. We will read about your proposed invasive species citizen science project with MCC you indicate that this will be commenced soon so please put details in next year's application.

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

This is a strong category for you, and you have lots to tell. Looking at the scale of your landscaping, it is fair to attribute 90% of what you planted this year to your own propagation from last year's flowers and plants – well done. This is a great circular economy initiative, keep it up. In addition, you tell of your committee member who promoted the post-Christmas gift exchange which is such a good idea for unwanted presents. Well done for organising the re-turn bin at the GAA – this venture seems to be particularly popular with clubs making some funding from encouraging recycling. We also noted your bottle bank. Do the schools recycle outgrown uniforms or sports clothes? You have a particularly strong local horticultural scene and unfortunately, I missed both your Friday market at the square and your seasonal market in the hall. You seem to have plenty of local produce that is available at both markets. We did notice your herbs available for all – nice touch. Tell us next year of the sustainability actions that came out of your Santa Maria class course. You have a book exchange that you are in the process of upgrading the housing unit. Elaborate more next year on composting in the community garden and let us know if you harvest rainwater or use river water in your plants. Also good to hear about any active travel initiatives too.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have developed a good regime to address litter control combining your weekly litter patrol with delegation of areas to your Pick A Patch project. This is paying off with virtually all of your village appearing litter free. An excellent achievement considering you have to deal with a large number of visitors and those passing through too. Some untidiness outside the West View premises. You participate in the annual An Taisce Spring Clean, well done to all volunteers. Do you notice a decrease in the number of bags of rubbish collected? You tell us also of an admirable group in the village that focus on beach clean ups in the area. This is especially welcoming for the community and the environment too in view of how rubbish can be devastating to marine life. Your photos are telling

of the energy you invested in keeping the village tidy, thank you for these. It will be good when you replace the book exchange box as it is in a state of disrepair and we also noticed an unpainted bench seat and weeds needing attention on the red bridge at Scott's Park. Overall, however you are doing a great job in this category.

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

The village core has many residential properties and in general these looked really well and have embraced the bright colour scheme of the village. Some have conserved architectural elements of previous shop uses which adds appeal to the streetscape. You focused this year you tell us on a number of key maintenance areas within a number of housing estates particularly at entrance points. This suggests that residents/holiday house owners need to be contacted to arrange some management regimes. Regardless well done for you tackling these maintenance issues and as your photos show they weren't for the weak willed. In general, most estates looked well maintained. The Glebe had nice new trees, a little weeding required here. Coise Abhainn was exceptionally well landscaped with an eye on biodiversity and beautiful landscaping in the garden of a corner property. Ard Caher is nicely landscaped, and the preschool is a welcoming sight on entry.

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

You tell us of the enhancements to the Westport Road approach, and we can see that already your investment in landscaping care here is contributing to a delightful access to the village with your lovely stone signage, ground planting and imminent increased bedding and pruned trees. We concur with last year's adjudicator's comment regarding the disjointed pedestrian access from the nearest housing development which is very unsafe for pedestrians and only encourages car use for short journeys. Your approach from the Leenane Road is made very attractive at the junction with the cart floral display, seating and wide grassed area. On both approaches for a distance however there are a number of unnecessary signs which do impact the visual amenity and actually are precedent for encouraging others to erect signage too – note some of these are for the Louisburg market. The stretch of boundary along the GAA grounds on the Leenane Road needs some landscaping to give enclosure and visual enhancement. We did note in your Biodiversity Plan that there is an action to install hedgerow planting here to extend the ecology corridor along this roadside. This should be given priority. The Tureen Road is a pleasant local road approach and nice to have a path to the school. We noted the painted agricultural sheds and well-located car park facilitating on arrival. Advance warning signs for school are located here and on the Westport road, which is good. The raised ramps in the village are also effective in calming traffic.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Louisburgh and get an insight into the extent of your community activities. Your application was well supported by photographs and your map legible and projects easy to locate. It would be good to tell of updates on projects that are evolving also such as the small woodlands and to include the actions of your biodiversity plan scheduled in time as part of your long-term plan.