

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mulranny - An Mhala Raithní** Ref: **501**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **407**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2026**
30/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	57	58
Streetscape & Public Places	80	51	53
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	54	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	55	57
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	30	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	70	72
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	45	47
TOTAL MARK	600	395	407

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 This was the first visit to Mulranny in the role of adjudicator which was an awakening to the extent of the wonderful things the village has to offer. It reflects well on how your committee and small community of only 400 has enabled the village and its fantastic natural setting on Clew Bay to develop and thrive sustainably. You have to be commended also for your excellent work in continuing to expand your network and collaborative reach within the community. You have shown a capacity to capture a broad range of involvement from you community young and not so young, community groups, businesses, school, voluntary and state bodies. We note that you are also proactive in involving seasonal residents and your new residents at Murrivaugh Close. Your long-term involvement and experience with the Tidy Town competition since 1992 has certainly focused your vision for Mulranny and allowed for beneficial collaboration with Mulranny Community Futures and Mulranny Towards 2030.. This combines well with your structured, yet dynamic 3-year project planning which fits well within the SDG's. Your broad means of communication is excellent using events, print media and local newsboards and indeed your Facebook and Instagram. We see you have an impressive social media followership and upload good quality, regular posts. Your special project – continuation with the Butterfly Garden project reflects well on your interest in tackling our biodiversity crisis and aligns with the objectives of your referenced new initiative CARE which has a focus on local climate action and biodiversity protection. Great to hear of your work with JTT, local scouts' group and your direct liaison with the local school. Wonderful that your young community was recognised through the Explorers Oceans Champion award for their ocean project. We note also all your other recent accolades well done Mulranny.

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

Mulranny has developed with a linear streetscape orientated towards the wonderful views over Clew Bay with Crough Patrick on the far horizon. It is understandable why your smart historic Park Hotel is located on an elevated site to capitalise on this vista. In general, the village has retained a traditional style of single and two storey structures with more modern developments assimilating well through design, signage and use of traditional finishes. You reference that shopfronts are well maintained, and this was evident especially from your hospitality businesses such as the Moynish House, Mc Loughlins Bar, The Goat Café Moran's and Doherty's where colour, signage and street furniture is of a good standard. Key community buildings include your fantastic Arts Centre where your tastefully converted convent building has recently been extended now with a separate companion contemporary structure. You mentioned the new landscaping there which includes sustainable paving and new trees. Loved the large, curved seating area with tree trunk tables, it will work great as an outdoor classroom I'd say. The adjoining

school and church with your FFI garden create a well-presented community hub at this location in the village with lots of potential synergies. The southern street in the village core is your promenade area where you mention that you have upgraded the street furniture. This is a delightful public space and viewing platform. It was well-used on the day of the visit, bins, seating bike stands and pumps all presented well and the area is populated at so many points with your trees, colourful pollinator friendly planters and baskets. Overall, an exemplar public realm space. Great to see the thatching nearly completed on your cottage, what is the building used for? Although you have some dereliction in the village you have camouflaged these well, especially on the Newport approach with fresh whitewashed elevations on the old cottages and painted faux windows. The gap site in the village and old untidy open shed opposite Moynish House could do with similar improvements. The Victorian Causeway must be a challenging structure to maintain, particularly owing to the increase in annual storm events – it was delightful to walk to the beach and pier, we can understand why you with MCC need to have an annual upkeep schedule in view of scale and exposure. We note one cross bar needs replacing. You have a lovely beach area and although toilet facilities are clean and being freshly painted on the day of the visit it would be timely to be considering an upgrade. This could include for more modern facilities including outdoor showers, considering sporting activities here and a 'Changing Places' facility noting your St Brendan's Village community in the village. Liked to see your playground accessible within the village and opposite the bedding with advice on Bees.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

In this category you have given us great photographs to show your seasonal planting. You also highlight your continuous work on your biodiversity garden including the pruning of your fruit trees and maintenance of your composting regime. You deserve great credit for your abundance of floral planters, baskets and ground planting throughout the village. We were particularly impressed by the ground planter near St Brendan's and the impressive planting at the entry to your new housing development. The centenary garden is a nicely maintained intimate park space within the village that accommodates your annual Christmas tree we see. Well done to your Men's Shed group. The street section could do with a little more animation perhaps a sculpture, children's art project, a challenge for your Arts Centre patrons perhaps? The Fern Walk provides a variation on the route to the causeway, like last years adjudicator we did feel it is challenging for accessibility in its current form even for the able bodied- perhaps worth linking with MCC to see if railing, surfacing and gradient improvements could be reviewed while keeping its natural character – regardless well done on the maintenance work. Loved the sweet smell that wafted from your linear rose garden along the promenade. You mention that you maintain the public bike repair kit and pumps. Most were in good condition but those at the restored Railway Station building were not functioning. Otherwise, this hub space is a great landing point on the greenway with all the good facilities provided including parking, toilets, showers, cycle rental, picnic seating and nice planters.

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

You have a fantastic mosaic of habitats including coast and marine habitats. These are well complemented on land by trees, hedging and wildflowers which gives you a great diversity of flora and fauna. You tell us of this and highlight the distinctive machair and salt marsh where on our causeway walk got to experience lots of birdlife and were treated to fantastic array of wildflowers inclusion blankets of native orchids. Your natural setting must have been beneficial in your N.S. reaching their 9th Green Flag congratulations to them. You tell us of your endeavours to enrich your village biodiversity through native berry planting at the Arts Centre where swift boxes have been integrated into the gable of the new build, at your biodiversity park. The Old Goat Society is an incredible interesting project we were disappointed that we didn't see any of these distinctive creatures but read online that they move out for the winter and return in July. We noticed that your planters too included for many pollinator friendly species as well as culinary herbs. You chose to highlight your Butterfly Project as your special project. We were delighted to see the sloping bank opposite the school, full of wildflowers and grasses offering lots of opportunities for nectar. Ensure you have sufficient larval food too such as wild brassicas, including nasturtiums, holly, ivy, blackthorn and nettles. Your butterfly information sign board was an informative read with delightful illustrations. Great to read about the schools 2km monitoring trail and participation in the National Biodiversity Data Centre butterfly monitoring scheme as recent media reports indicate a depreciating conservation status for native butterflies. Your creation of your butterfly project represents a positive address to this threat. Good to see your insect sand and water feeding dishes at this location too. Wonderful that you continue with your gift of an Oak tree to sixth class students. Great information on nature boards throughout the village and at the beach though those at the promenade may need an upgrade soon as they are starting to fade. Well done on your interesting schedule for Biodiversity Week and the establishment of your CARE team.

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

You have a lot of initiatives in this category well done. It is great to hear that Mulranny Solar Meitheal continues to stimulate interest in community actions to reduce energy usage that results in carbon emissions. The success of using PV solar panels on your institutional buildings is telling when you calculate the energy use offsets. Hopefully you will be successful with your recent applications for grants. The Gift of Hands which has sustained its work for so many years is a brilliant example of circular economy. Great that the Old Goat Centre participates in the Dark Sky Park designation through providing information from their sky quality meter and hosts the annual stone wall conference. We saw that Murrivaugh Close has dark sky friendly lighting fixtures installed. Was there a lighting audit carried out in the village for further mitigation of light pollution? Unfortunately, we didn't get a chance to sample the produce from St Brendan's Greenway Garden at St Brendan's Market Shop which wasn't open. This is a thriving project and must be so rewarding for the St Brendan's residents who work on it. Good to hear that the garden uses a number of nature-based gardening solution for weed control and mulching. This links well with your emerging FFI community garden at the parochial house and your workshops on sustainable gardening practices. Great to hear

that TFI rural link bus routes have increased in frequency and that Greenway expansion plans are being hatched. The Disability Cycling Hub at the railway station is a welcome encouragement for cycling for all. Keep battling for that EV charger point, essential with the increase in electric car usage. Wonderful that your school is participating in the Mayo school recycling of books and furniture for Ghana as you say, a good example of global community solidarity. We notice that the school also has a number of projects that contribute to sustainability, lovely sign on the main road that recognises the importance of walking to school.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You give us a good summary of your schedule for litter control in the village streets and the coast area. These include the Spring Clean and regular litter controls weekly, daily when needed, and your Wednesday enhancement reviews. For the coast cleans ups you organise the N.S. – your JTT and you have a team of local scouts that join to help in tasks too. They all deserve great praise. Your photos are telling of all your vigorous cleaning. With all this investment in containing litter, maintaining street furniture, painting of walls, fencing, fixtures and power hosing pavements our visit resulted in a litter free experience. There were small pockets of weeds at open ground areas, especially near the Health Centre, vacant site in village and some benches did need a bit of care but these were an exception to the otherwise pristine state of the village which also included a spotless recycling hub. The coast and pier area too were litter free and tidy and deserving of your Blue Flag. We appreciate that to achieve the standard of upkeep requires a lot of work, dedication and community pride.

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

Your good standard of public realm on the streets contributes to a good setting for your residential development. You tell us you offer window boxes to the community at reduced prices. These certainly are taken up and bring vibrancy to the streets and buildings and also ensure that you can maximise pollinator friendly planting. Great to see them inserted into derelict properties too. Thanks for all the photograph showing this good street presentation. We noticed that the tourist office, unusually had a dearth of floral colour. The open space in your new housing development, Murrivaugh Close is undeveloped as of yet and will benefit in time from your guidance on landscaping. Although one resident is shining out already with lovely window boxes and ground planting. St Brendan's Village is lifted by the flower boxes, although we noticed a lot of weed growth on the paths and access road to the housing area /holiday home area. Comments regarding the address of the Centenary garden onto the streetscape have been made earlier. Some road markings need to be repainted. Paved areas are well maintained.

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

We read that you give a lot of attention to the approach roads and you give your Men's Shed a lot of credit for maintenance. Coming from Newport, arrival is well announced by your maintained verges, distinctive stone boundary walls, bollards. The verge planting, distinctive rose bedding, saucer plants and trees all add to an attractive arrival. Signage is well controlled and good to see your bespoke sign highlighting your proud accolades. Although the 50 Km speed control sign is rather large, presumably a gesture to calm traffic Hopefully your walkability audit you mention will deliver some better resolution. Great that you have a path extending so far out of the village. The cycle lane along this route is a good asset too but watch out for that defective bollard on the lane near the village. The Achill approach is equally attractive with treed boundaries and nice walling. Good to see a number of traffic alerts for the school. Car parking is conveniently provided at either end, with the western side now having the butterfly park and the exceptional low level picnic seating for children's use ?..good. Directional signage within the village is of a nice design and discreetly located. The approach road from the beach unfortunately doesn't have a path. Nice to see dual language used to name houses along this stretch but sorry to see the An Gaeltacht sign lying in the hedge – tog suas e! Great to see all your loop walks and route information are well posted with helpful associated signage. The Greenway provides a nice circulatory route for the village as well as functioning as a cycle route. The large concrete blocks placed at points along the route are a bit of a crude way to inhibit vehicular traffic – might be good if they can't be moved to give them some artistic treatment. The main street as already referenced provides a very pleasant experience with expansive views and lots of opportunities to dwell and enjoy them.

Concluding Remarks:

Thanks for the opportunity to visit Mulranny and we were lucky enough to be there on a sunny dry day. It was an enlightening to learn of all the activities that you are involved in and the interest you have in your unique natural environment. We appreciated your helpful photographs. A note of advice on the application is to perhaps to stick to projects rather than lists of accolades, grant application, references to multiple groups/anacronyms in some categories just to give the adjudicator a more clear message on all your admirable work.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was lovely to be asked to carry out the second round adjudication of Mulranny this year. It has been several years since this adjudicator has had the privilege. The approach from Westport lets you know that you are visiting somewhere special! After the first Mulranny sign, there is a nicely unmanaged area with lots of native species. However, for the first time we noticed a plant that should absolutely not be here, this is Himalayan Balsam. This is an invasive species with a high potential for ecological impact. The management of this plant is a crucial task for you now. We would also recommend that you look at the New Zealand Flax which is another feature of your approach roads. This too is an invasive species which will require your attention.

On the more positive side of things, stonewalls and gorgeous roses lead you on into the village of Mulranny on

well-surfaced and clearly-marked roads or bicycle lanes. We would ask whether the very large 50 km/h signs are appropriate for a village of this size. We do know that many pedestrians and cyclists have to be kept safe in the village so a section of raised roadway on either side of the village might be an option.

The shallow saucer planters look great, well done. There were so so many examples of householders adding to the floral display with window boxes, planters and baskets! This really makes a difference, thank you. We noted gorgeous planting including Rudbeckia at Saint Brendan's villas.

As a cyclist, this adjudicator always loves coming to Mulranny. There are so many lovely chrome bicycle racks, handy hostelrys and even bicycle repair stations, the cyclist really feels that they are welcome around here. All of the businesses of the village looked great on adjudication day. It was a warm sunny Friday evening and the place was buzzing with people who had arrived on foot, by bike and by car. We noted that local drivers were very courteous towards visitors who were driving right hand drive vehicles that they may have been new to. For all the busyness, Mulranny was just about litter-free on adjudication day. The only exceptions had clearly been dropped by children or fallen from cyclists' pockets.

Only a very few tidiness issues were noted. Watch out for sign-poles that have no purpose, abandoned traffic cones and leftover fixings. A community noticeboard was nearly empty apart from a notice for an event earlier in the year. The plazas provide a beautiful place to sit and admire the view but also to learn. How we had previously overlooked your biodiversity signs is a mystery. The level of detail on these, delivered in an arresting way makes these among the best such signs that this adjudicator has seen. These may be getting on a bit and suffering from exposure so be sure to have them replaced exactly as they are!

As ever it was a pleasure to be back in Mulranny and enjoy the results of everyone's efforts to make this village look as great as it does. This adjudicator is happy to endorse the points of the first round adjudicator. Well done everyone.