

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shrule - Sruthair** Ref: **1516**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **327**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	40	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	42
TOTAL MARK	600	314	327

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 the opportunity to visit your lovely historic village. We see that you have a core of 4 who are supported by up to 12 volunteers and can also depend on your local residents to contribute to village enhancement too. You indicate that you network well with other community groups, state agencies and have good support from the local authority including RSS workers who we saw were busy on the day of inspection. Great to see that you use a range of communication methods, and we see you keep your Facebook page well illustrated with photographs and community notices. You have over the years engaged with children on the N.S. Green Schools program and public art projects. Your young community also contribute to your litter picking regime. Your enthusiasm extends to encouraging preschoolers to plant annual seeds for public use, a great education in both nature and civic pride. You indicate that the work for the Tidy Towns competition not only has an aesthetic value, but all has enhanced pride in the village, participation and a willingness to contribute to through fundraising and sponsorship. We are delighted to read this positive result of the competition. Your highlighted special projects is the acquisition of your mechanical weeder, substantially replacing the use of herbicides and also your landscaping and planting endeavours throughout the village.

We note your 3-year plan expires this year it is now time to plan for the next phase of work as this will give you structure, focus on a sharing of responsibilities and help sustain your interest for projects that can span over a number of years. Good Luck

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

The visit to Shrule was an interesting lesson in history which is well explained on your well-illustrated information panels. The ruins of the castle, the stone bridge and the corn mill give an attractive setting from the Galway approach. The significant community buildings including Naomh Josaf N.S. with its bright mural and St Joseph's Church which has undergone significant renovation we read inside, afford a pleasant entry point from the Ballinrobe side. The village retains the legacy of a small market town where the original form is still intact with two storey terraced buildings supporting a mix of residential and commercial uses edged by single dwellings on the fringes. You have successfully retained this character and celebrate your history well. It is good to see the endeavours you have made regarding camouflaging the vacant and derelict buildings. Hopefully the Kavenagh building will be redeveloped soon, it would be great if the proposal assimilates in scale with the streetscape and manages to retain the vernacular signage. The cemetery adds to the village streets being very accessible, well maintained and hosting the Abbey and an expansive view to the SE. It would be wonderful if you could organise a painting Meitheil perhaps to clean up your community centre which deserves a bit of a makeover externally. The main car park area in the square is well laid out; it might be good to give it a bit of enclosure with the addition of low decorative bollards and

insertion of some street trees along this roadside boundary. We note some well-maintained, brightly painted commercial premises such as Gibbons, Cradocks, Headlines and the attractive Lola o Donoghue studio. Your pump at the castle could be improved by some new re-painting, also if you could lobby An Post for a new postbox as the current one is quite rusted. Overall, though well done on your streetscapes.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

It was a joy to experience all your colourful, stone surrounded bedding with your mixture of perennially annuals and ornamental grasses. These were especially nice at the castle and at the junction with Dalgan Road. Those at the base of your entrance sign are a welcome also but need trimming as the rose bush is obscuring your endeavour award sign. You are deservedly proud of your line of sycamore trees lining your main street, we noted the impact of storm damage on a few and a recent replacement. The grassed areas within the village, on the approaches and at the graveyard are well maintained and we witnessed two local workers diligently contributing to this good standard. You are proud to have secured sponsorship for your tiered planters. These were planted up well and positioned throughout the village however for best effect they need to have generous amounts of trailing plants to obscure the planters. A thought for next year. You mentioned hanging baskets on the bridge and flower boxes at the garda station these were absent on the day but passing at a later date we noticed you had installed them. We see from photographs and did note when passing that they make a significant visual impact. Your residents on the street support a number of window flower boxes which with the other planters about the village and the bedding at the graveyard show immense pride of place in your public realm.

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

It was a joy to experience all your colourful, stone surrounded bedding with your mixture of perennially annuals and ornamental grasses. These were especially nice at the castle and at the junction with Dalgan Road. Those at the base of your entrance sign are a welcome also but need trimming as the rose bush is obscuring your endeavour award sign. You are deservedly proud of your line of sycamore trees lining your main street, we noted the impact of storm damage on a few and a recent replacement. The grassed areas within the village, on the approaches and at the graveyard are well maintained and we witnessed two local workers diligently contributing to this good standard. You are proud to have secured sponsorship for your tiered planters. These were planted up well and positioned throughout the village however for best effect they need to have generous amounts of trailing plants to obscure the planters. A thought for next year. You mentioned hanging baskets on the bridge and flower boxes at the garda station these were absent on the day but passing at a later date we noticed you had installed them. We see from photographs and did note when passing that they make a significant visual impact. Your residents on the street support a number of window flower boxes which with the other planters about the village and the bedding at the graveyard show immense pride of place in your public realm.

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

It is great that you acknowledge the SDG's importance in your application. We did see that you have a re-cycling hub in the village. Perhaps you could appeal to the environment section for a refreshed sign that maybe includes other advice on sustainable actions. You could also use your Facebook page to add advise every few months on sustainable actions that individuals, group or commercial businesses can carry out. Well done to the school to grasp the value of return scheme both environmentally and financially. It will be good when your GAA club starts implementing sustainable actions, perhaps add their new sustainable officer to your TT team for a full community approach. Some clubs now run events to donate outgrown sports gear to younger members, also the GAA club and school could apply to have a water re-fill station. It is comforting to hear that your members grow annuals and cultivate seedlings for re-use in your landscaping. You have a lot of grass verges is there a possibility of developing compost from the cuttings or leaf mould from collecting leaves from your trees? Is there a possibility of establishing rainwater butts in the village to water your planters and boxes? Good to read that you created planters from recycled materials. Your Men's Shed may have innovative ideas for other similar re-cycle and repair projects. There may be also opportunities to work with your local business Dalgan Windows & Doors who deal with a lot of materials and may have sustainable practices for waste. The arts project with the school has had lasting value and looks bright and enlivening in the street, its maybe time to unleash more creativity with use of recycled materials or indeed crafting from nature. There are lots of sources of ideas in the Tidy Town handbook and links to useful websites. This is a category where marks achievable has increased and will be worth focusing on for future competitions.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You take a special interest in maintaining a litter free status. As mentioned, we saw two SEE workers busy with weed removal and trimming grass on the day of the visit. This no doubt contributes to the almost pristine state of your streets. This is attributed to your rigorous regime of weekly clean up and the legacy of your historic success in the Mayo litter leagues and participation in An Taisce clean ups. Thank you for the photographs of you litter picking group. It was not clear if you are continuing to participate in these. Regardless of you and your residents have to be commended for your diligence. In addition, you keep a tight rein on commercial signage which often at locations, particularly the entrance to towns can be very visually distracting. Well done.

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

There is a high level of care apparent in the housing stock in Shrúle. This included the well-maintained and nicely painted houses flanking the main street. Many with window boxes and those with front gardens supporting nice landscaping and maintained boundaries. This was also the case for the housing along Dalgan Road many of which supported gardens with a great display of flowers and good boundary treatment including specimen trees.

Churchfields estate has a nice tree lined entry and housing showed general good care with an interest in the maintenance of hedges, flowers and trees in the gardens. St Ledger's Close, showed a pocket of good, mature trees and nice, maintained low stone front boundary walling. Overall, the residential areas presented inviting areas to reside.

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

The approach from the south, Co. Galway has great drama created by the historic castle, bridge and Mill house. It would be important that the planters at this location are repaired and the disintegrated one removed. The hanging baskets noted subsequent to our visit add greatly to this approach. The speed sign here may need some attention. The approach from the Ballinrobe Road gives a pleasant aspect with well-maintained verges and a good density of trees with interval of colourful bed planting. The path may need some attention with better surfacing and weed control. Dalgan Road approach as reference has a range of single and two storey houses nicely landscaped, the verges on this road were being trimmed and if sections could be retained for a wildflower strip it would be beneficial all round. It was great to see the footpath almost extending out to the GAA pitches encouraging sustainable movements. The junction with the main N84 is very difficult to manoeuvre owing to the heavy traffic, additional traffic calming measures would be beneficial to the village. This junction has lovely stone surrounding pollinator friendly bedding in the verge on the northern side but could do with some improvements on the southern side perhaps the stones piled at this side are destined to create a new low wall boundary. The area near the recycle bins could do with improved surfacing and better boundary definition. This is in contrast to the nicely finished off surfaces on the Village Square.

Concluding Remarks:

The visit to Shrulue was of great interest and left lasting memories. This is both attributed to your generous dedication to enhancing your village and the dutiful respect you have given to display the historic legacy. Well done to all your community.