Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Cadamstown - Baile Mhic Ádaim**	Ref:	**547**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**326**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**19/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	36	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**317**	**326**

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.
Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition and thank you for your completed application form, map and plan. Next year add the map and plan to the end of the application form as this will make it easier for the adjudicator to negotiate your application. If you don't know how to do this ask a youth - PRO for Cadamstown Tidy Towns will look good on their CV. Was the last update of your Cadamstown Community Association Instagram Account in December? This needs to be updated regularly, as this is crucial for all social media feeds. We suggest that you also open a Facebook page which is used by the more senior members of your community, so that they too can see your activities and projects and who knows might even become one of your volunteers! Again a job for your new PRO. We liked the general aims in your Plan for each year and it's good to see that one of them is to involve all age groups. This is crucial in any small community. Your committee of 3 is small, but truthfully, sometimes that's all that's needed. Having volunteers to help is vital and you have 10, which is excellent. You list those you engage with which includes Offaly Co Co. This is extremely important as many of your projects cannot be undertaken without the assistance of the LA. This is your third year entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition and we hope that our reports are beneficial for you and assist you with ideas for your village. We have no doubt that the community have benefited from your hard work and on their behalf, we thank you.

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

The typography of the village along with the mix of single and two storey vernacular structures creates a very pleasant atmosphere. We admired your beautifully capped, old low stone walls along the entrance roads, which give views into the rural landscape. It would be great if the new stone faced block wall could be recapped in a similar manner to the old stone walls as this would look better and also help to hide the unattractive concrete on the top. Something for you to discuss with Offaly Co Co. The stone wall area with the clock, geckos and ladybirds added a little fun to the streetscape. The sign telling us of the 1912 Scoil Náisiúnta needs to be cleaned and the lettering carefully repainted so that is clear to read. The church was beautifully presented with it freshly painted walls, kerbs, planters, piers and gates. We were delighted to see that there was no signage on the piers and gates and so the beauty of the architectural form which they create can be appreciated. The stone plinth informing us of Litter Abbey date stone needs to be repainted and the lettering picked out in black paint. Is this date stone safe here? Perhaps it should be located inside the church?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You small park at the entrance to the carpark was admired. Addition lavender and roses could be added to the planning bed inside the wall which would add to its beauty. The planters at the entrance are superfluous – remove them as they detract a little for this very pleasant green space.
It would be good to plant a small coppice of silver birch (Betula pendula) trees at the junction of the R421 and L80012. This junction is quite barren and needs a focal point. The existing picnic benches can then be located around these trees. There were a large number of floral planters along your roads which were well planted, but truthfully it would be better if you concentrated on your panting beds and added more plants to these which in time will make more of an impact for less work. If there are areas where new planting beds can be added we would advise this course of action … but only build ones which will be substantial and make an impact. We suggest adding English lavender, rudbeckia, echinacea, verbena etc to your existing planting beds as these are good for pollinators. Check the Pollinator Plan for ideas on the National Biodiversity website https://biodiversityireland.ie/ The child friendly ornaments added to the planting areas were noted. Our advice is not to overdo this as otherwise your village will become 'tacky'. Just make a Fairy Garden, if this is what you want, in just one area of the village. The roses in the church grounds are beautiful. We recommend that the beds on both side of the entrance area are filled with these – what an impact that would make! Just plant the one variety for maximum impact.

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

Cadamstown has wonderful diverse habitats for insects, birds, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates with your mature trees and hedgerows, stone structures and walls, forests, farmland and the beautiful Silver River. Your hedgerows on approach roads were alive with a great display of wildflowers – foxgloves, oxeye daisies, buttercups, thistles, etc. We admired the sign telling us of the Silver River Eco Walk. Do you know what wildlife there is in your area and also what wildlife habitats you have? Are there any in particular that are important? Make a record of these and at some stage in the future arrange to have a Biodiversity Action Plan made for Cadamstown. Contact the Heritage Officer/Biodiversity Officer in Offaly Co Co who will advise you on this. Do you know if your local faith community has signed up for Havens for Nature? This initiative was introduced this year by the Heritage Council, and encourages those local faith communities to support biodiversity in faith grounds. Check on the Heritage Council website for information.

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

This is a category where many communities struggle, but it's just about being aware of our use of the planet's resources and how we can, in our daily lives, cut down on waste. We encourage TidyTowns groups and volunteers to lead by example. It's wonderful that you provide walking sticks for those who want to walk along one of the many walking routes in your area. We have no doubt that those who come without them, are grateful when they see that you provide them. Hopefully, as you request, they are returned. Some of your residents have wonderful gardens and we have no doubt that come September/ October, they remove some plants that are no longer needed. Ask them to put them into pots and make them available for others. This plant swap could become an annual event for you. We also noted some gardens had vegetables, fruit bushes and fruit trees growing. What do these gardeners do with the surplus? Once again find out and perhaps ask them to make them available for others to take free of charge.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We encourage you to sign up and take part in the All-Ireland An Taisce Spring Clean Event. When the local community sees your volunteers in their high-vis vests picking litter, removing weeds and clearing debris from the river it reminds them to be attentive to their own waste disposal methods. We are delighted to report that when we visited, the village was virtually litter free but unfortunately weeds were noted in quite a few areas which detracted somewhat from the streetscape. A shovel, hoe and stiff brush are all that's needed to remove them. But it must be done on a regular basis. Weed growth in the gravel at the picnic benches at the junction of the R421 and L80012 made the area look a little unkempt. Gravel needs to be raked regularly in order to stop weed growth. (See Landscaping category for a suggestion for this area). Remover the tyres planter from the park beside the river …. it detracts from the area and is TOTALLY unnecessary in this park. Tyres should be recycled and not made into planters. There is a considerable amount of ivy growing on your stone walls which should be removed. While ivy is a wonderful for insect life and is acceptable/good on rendered (plastered) walls it is not acceptable on stone structures as the roots penetrate between the joints in the stones, making the walls unstable, leading to their collapse. Natural stone constructions are in themselves great habitats for insect life and also very beautiful in the streetscape. While the village name signs were clean other road signs were dirty – again a regular job to be undertaken.

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

Your residential accommodation in the village consists of vernacular single, and two-storey houses and on the approach roads there are well-maintained farmhouses surrounded by neatly kept farm yards. The houses in the village were extremely well presented and we commend the homeowners who had made an effort in support of your work. Some houses had been painted recently, including walls, piers, and gates. Planters adorned the fronts of some of the houses which entered directly from the road. Those that had gardens had wonderful arrays of colourful flowers, and shrubs. We loved the bright-red, flat iron gate at one property which added colour to the streetscape. Another house had a penny farthing wall display and a miniature well in the garden. We noticed a plaque on a shed dated 1821 but couldn't make out with the lettering on the plaque. This is part of your social/architectural history and so it would be good if signs such as this, were cleaned and the lettering painted in either white or black, depending on the stone – white on limestone, black on sandstone etc. It would be good to see more pollinator-friendly flowers in the gardens and planters so don't forget to encourage the residents to grow them from now on. Have a look at

the website https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Garden-Pollinator-Guidelines-2022-WEB.pdf for ideas for the garden.

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

You are, as you say, located in the heart of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. We entered Cadamstown along the R421 and noticed your village names sign. We see that the grass margin is trimmed to this point, but we recommend that you trim it beyond this, say 50M, so that the village names sign is more visible to the motorists which will encourage them to reduce speed. You have lovely treelined approach roads which add to the entrances to your village. The new walkway in the church carpark is perfect. Keep it as a simple concrete path with the gravel edges – no need to add anything. The red, blue and yellow benches in your little park need painting. Nice to see that primary colours had been selected for your streetscape furniture. In order to assist people who are visually impaired, we suggest that you ask Offaly Co Co to install rumble strips at the dipped kerbs. It might also be an idea to have a pedestrian activated crossing where the footpath ends at the park beside the river. At present walkers accessing this park from the north, must walk along the road. We noticed the sign warning motorists of walkers on the road so we feel this is an issue that need to be resolved.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Cadamstown, a village we have visited previously as a tourist (walker) and so this time our visit looked at the riches you have to offer in the village and on the approach roads. Keep up the good work.