Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Clonbullogue - Cluain Bolg**	Ref:	**618**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**400**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**08/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	57	59
Streetscape & Public Places	80	53	55
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	50	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	48	50
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	28	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	41	42
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	49	51
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**385**	**400**

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 application form, photos, map with legend and your 2022-2026 Plan. While your map is basic, it had everything we needed to find our way around and locate your projects – so well done. Your village is a community working well together with a committee of 8 and a large number who volunteer depending on the activity: Spring Clean, Fund-Raising, village sweepers group etc. We note that the CE and Tus participants have been reduced. Unfortunately many communities have seen the same. The Clonbullogue Community Plan 2022-2032 is informing your actions and projects which we read relate to the SDGs. It looks like you had good fun at the Bealtaine Festival in May – thanks for the photos. We were happy to read that you have members on the Offaly Heritage Forum and on the OLDC. Your participation in the Tidy Towns competition since 1972 is admirable and it's good to read that the youth are involved, through the local school, as this will give them an appreciation of where they live.

See Concluding Remarks for advice on filling out the application form and producing a map.

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

Your village, with the GAA grounds and National School at one end and the Church of the Sacred Heart centrally located, is primarily residential and so it was good to see that it was serviced by a very busy local shop. The village primarily consists of single and two storey properties set on individual sites with a large Green centrally located in addition to the Village Green to the south. The 1928 St. Brouchan's Hall with its colourful floral beds was well presented. Good to see that the renovations which are needed for the church are progressing due to the fundraising activities of the community. We admired that you painted the kerbs around the trees on the main street, and noted that many of the walls had also been painted and were well presented. Good to see redevelopment is occurring in your village which will result in the provision of an additional 10 houses in total. The four arch stone bridge over the river on the L1003 is quite beautiful, but take care that ivy roots do not enter between the stones and cause damage to the structure finally leading to its collapse. Ivy should be removed before this happens. The old Forge opposite the village green was admired. Is the Garda station still in use? It needs attention, including the chimney pots, where there is weed growth.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The centrally located green at Woodlawn of is a huge asset to the village. The trees are maturing nicely, giving roosting and nesting sites for birds and for insects. Trim back suckers and low branches in order to keep the trees well maintained. The flowerbeds along the roadside, adding colour and vibrancy to the area. We loved the small wildflower meadow growing in the middle of this green. We recommend that another area, perhaps close to the hedge, be also left unmown so the her too wildflowers and tall grasses can grow. It would also be good to allow say a 900 mm radius around trees to be uncut. This will create long grasses filled with wildflowers under each tree. It also eliminates any chance of damage to the trees by streamers while benefiting biodiversity. These meadow areas to be cut in September and that stage the grass to be removed so that nutrients are removed. You have a number of colourful planters along the streetscape field with pollinator, friendly flowers, which we admired. We recommend that some trailing plants be added to these planters, which not only will help to disguise the containers but also give movement and thus additional interest. At the south of the village is the Village Green along with the village pump. Here too we read of Legends beside a well planted mature bed – it need weeding and perhaps some pruning too. The planting bed along the L1003 at the Stop sign will be beautiful when it matures – have patience and don't be tempted to add additional plants in the meantime. The new beach hedge on the Daingean Road was noted. You mention that you have wonderful daffodils and dandelions on approach roads. Next year add a photo.

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

Like many villages you have great mature hedgerows and trees in addition to stone structures and walls, but you also have the Figile River and its banks, so you have an abundant variety of habitats for insects, birds, and mammals. As we visit in June/July we get the benefit of seeing the hedgerows in full flower - foxglove, ox-eyed daises, cornflowers, honeysuckle, etc. We strongly recommend that you collect some of the seeds as you have such a large variety of windflowers growing locally. These can then be tossed in your wildflower meadow areas. We noted the bird boxes and ask that you would let us know of your success. We are always amazed at how quickly these bird boxes attract residents. Good of the Men's Shed Edenderry to gift them to you. Well done on the work of the post and rail fencing along the riverbanks this will allow the riparian corridor to flourish in addition to being the safety barrier for the farmers' cattle. We also noted the fruit trees and bushes which with windfalls will be a great source of food for mammals and insects. We saw a swarm of bees in the boundary between the school and GAA pitch – hopefully someone collected them and gave them an 'official' hive.

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

We noted the new projects undertaken by you including the installation of the wood-burning stove.
Good to see that you are gathering nettles and dandelions, and are making your own foliar fertilizer. Where is this being undertaken? We see that you were gifted bird boxes by the Men's Shed in Edenderry, perhaps it is time to have a Clonbullogue Men's Shed? Is this something you could advance? The population is certainly big enough and in terms of sustainability, the work carried out would be of assistance to the whole community. Good to see that you now have a Sustainable Energy Community group who will work with SEAI to develop a master plan for the village. We look forward to reading of its progress. We see that already some members of the community and clubs have already benefited from grants to upgrade their premises. It's apt that the local Wind Farm Project assist communities close by with grant aid. We visited Saint Patrick's National School but unfortunately, couldn't access the grounds. However, through the fencing, we saw the raised beds and noted that they had a considerable number of vegetables growing in them. Hopefully the children return in summer and harvest these. We look forward to seeing the Bottle Top mural when sufficient numbers of tops have been collected. The Figile River Walk it's quite beautiful, bringing the walkers along a riverbank track and footpath through the village. We loved to see the distance marked (1.8K) and also that it shown as suitable for 'average level of fitness'. Very often walks are indicated on signs with no indication of distance or of the fitness level required. The information on birds, trees, fish and village structures added interest to the panel. We were delighted to see, as we walked, that the grass along both sides of the path are neatly trimmed. In order to advance in this category, we suggest that you ask gardeners when they are removing plants, or splitting plants, to offer them to others. Encouraged residents to put them in pots and make them available for a swap - 'Take a plant, Leave a plant', similar to the book swaps that we see.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We love to read that Tidy Town volunteers take part in the nationwide Spring Clean-Up event. Seeing the volunteers working focuses the mind of the general public on the high amount of litter/fly tipping/ dumping that occurs nationally and encourages them to dispose of their waste correctly. It would be good to see individuals in the community registering for the #2minutestreetclean also organised by An Taisce. You also have the support of the local CE and Tus schemes. We visited the bottle bring banks at the end of the Figile River Walk where there was a little unauthorized litter. This is always a problem when the Bring Centre is located outside of a village or town, as here it is unsupervised. Your Village Sweepers meet twice a week and when we visited, we are delighted to report that there was virtually no litter visible. Some weed growth was noted at wall / path junctions which gave a slight unkempt feel to some areas. We noted the photo of the volunteers, removing weed growth from the cobblelock paving. This is really a thankless job and hopefully cobblelock will no longer be used as a landscape material in locations, such as these. All we can do is congratulate them for giving their time for this slow advancing task.

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

The residential accommodation in Clonbullogue consists primarily of individual or semi-detached houses set in their own sites located along the main street. In addition there are two residential estates and here too houses are detached or semi-detached. Many of the houses had been freshly painted, including their boundary walls and they made a positive contribution to the area. We recommend that where there are blank walls along communal open

green areas, plants, such as variegated ivy, pyracantha, wisteria etc be planted. This will not only reduce the need for maintenance of the wall, but also will be good for our pollinators. It's good to see that Residents' Associations exist, who maintain their estates. It's always encouraging when owners or occupiers take ownership not only of their own property but also of the area around their properties. We noted some chemical weed control had been used around posts and at roadside grass margins. This is no longer acceptable and we ask you to tell your CE and Tus workers in addition to your volunteers and residents to stop this practice. The name stone of Figile Manor is overgrown and cannot be read by the passing motorist – only put plants to the sides and rear of estate names.

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

Well-trimmed hedgerows, mature trees and stonewalls are found along all of your approach roads.
Having a footpath from the village across the bridge leading to the Riverwalk now makes that journey safe for the pedestrian. The traffic lights turn green when a vehicle approaches and so this pedestrian focused upgrade does not unduly affect the motorists. We admired that a foot path, bounded by a neatly trimmed hedge, extends along the L1003 road as far as the beginning of the Figile River Walk making the walk safe for all. On the opposite side you trim a narrow margin leaving the remaining area for the pollinators. There's no need to put up a signs – it's obvious that this area is being managed. The 50k road signs (and other street signs) were clean and clearly visible and warned the motorists that they are entering a settlement and so need to reduce speed. Road surfaces are poor along the L1003 from the Clonbullogue sign to the village and will need attention shortly – the macadam is failing. Wonderful to see the pedestrian crossing which makes it safe for those travelling to and from the school and GAA pitch. The road markings at the crossing need attention. Indeed we recommend that you audit your village in terms of road surfaces and road markings and where upgrades are needed bring this list to the attention of the area office so that you are included in next year's budget.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your village … but we have a couple of suggestions for 2027.

- The photos in the application form were a little distorted. Get one of the school children to insert them into the form … PRO for Clonbullogue Tidy Towns will look good on their CV.
- Your five year plan still has one more year to run. It's good to see it's a Five rather than a Three Year Plan as many activities/projects take longer than three years to be completed. When making your next plan show who on the committee will lead the activity/project. Also show collaborators names (you'll need help from state and semi-state organisations with many of the projects). Only put a tick each year after the topic when a project or activity has been undertaken/completed. We suggest this is better as it will show progress annually.

We wish to state that this is not a criticism of your work but to explain to you that as adjudicators we rely on a clear application form and accompanying map to inform us of your projects and make our visit rewarding. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Clonbullogue.