Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Daingean - An Daingean**	Ref:	**620**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**362**
Category:	**C**	Date(s):	**07/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	52	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	38	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	25	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	41	42
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	42
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**348**	**362**

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 (we loved the Drone view), map, legends and your 2024-2026 Town Plan. Your map is a little basic – next year add the key buildings and structures, names of all roads (you just indicated the R402), and a north point. These will assist adjudicators who aren't familiar with Daingean to negotiate their way around the village. We'd also suggest that the legends are combined – no need for two. Your Daingean Tidy Towns Facebook page has almost 1K followers and we see that it is updated regularly which is crucial for all social media feeds. Have you thought about an Instagram account? This is the platform used by the youth. Hopefully now being connected with Daingean Development your work and projects will reach a larger audience. Your town is a community working well together with a committee of 10 and a voluntary body of 85 including members of other local clubs. Good to read that you are now engaged with your Elected Representatives. For future applications just BRIEFLY describe your KEY project (as requested in the Application Form) … you can tell us more about it in the relevant category. Your participation in the Tidy Towns competition for over 10 years is admirable and having the youth involved, through the Canoe Club and Youth Club in addition to the local school, is wonderful as it 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:

The layout of the town, based very much around the canal, numerous heritage buildings and sites, is quite unique. We were delighted to see that in the development of the town, this uniqueness has been retained. It's also good to see that the name Philipstown is remembered as this too represents your heritage. The town is a mix of two and three storey buildings many of which are five and six bay which is unusual for a town of your size. The work undertaken to the Canal Store is admirable as this building is an important feature in the streetscape. Would the owners consider selling the building and you could out it into some community use – perhaps for the Canoe/Youth club? We're delight to read that you are tackling poor and inappropriate signage. Signage is clutter in the streetscape and sometimes unnecessarily big, in poor locations, and in your case dilapidated and unsightly. We suggest you do a survey of the town and bring the results to the Area Engineer asking for those no longer in use or dilapidated to be removed, including the poles (which are often left behind). We visited Killaderry Graveyard and noted the work to the grave slab. The entrance to the graveyard is quite special with the access steps on both sides of the main gate. Have you considered doing a Heritage Trail? The ER post box, which looked unloved, could be painted and included with your many historic structures and features. Remember a variety of structures in addition

to buildings can be included in your Daingean Heritage Trail – walls, bridges, post boxes, gates, piers etc. It's disappointing to read that the street drainage system is no longer working correctly causing 'serious difficulty' for all. We assume this is on the list of work to be undertaken by your area office? Unoccupancy and dereliction are the blight of many villages and towns and Daingean too has some. In addition to making contact with the owners and asking if you can paint /clear around them, all you can do is ask Offaly Co Co to serve derelict sites notices on the owners. Hopefully in time they will be renovated and given a new lease of life.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have a number of green spaces in your town, but perhaps the largest and most important are the canal banks which are a wonderful amenity for the community and visitors alike. We're happy to read that the problem of the water levels in this important asset to the town have been resolved and when we visited the harbour had visiting barges. Good to read about the recently formed Canoe Club and Youth Club, who make use of the wonderful asset of the canal. Your other main green area is the Fairgreen. We read that you planted wildflowers under the trees in the Fairgreen. We'd advise that you might consider saving the seeds of wildflowers that grow along the roadsides as these are the ones which will survive and regrow year on year. Good to read that you have pruned the recently planted street trees. Are there plans for more trees on build-out? They add to the street and as you have a wide long Main Street yours is suitable for the introduction of more. Lovely to see the photos of the bright colours of the spring flowers which are needed after the dark winter months. We walked through the grounds of the old church, and noted the small watercourse flowing through. This area needs your attention. Your bio diversity advisor can advise on the planting, but the grasses, moss, etc. on the walls should be removed to show that the stream is being managed. Signage is not needed.

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

With hedgerows, mature trees, stone structures and walls, and the beautiful Royal Canal you have a great variety of habitats for insects and mammals both in Daingean and on along the approach roads. The hedgerows were very in full flower when we visited - foxglove, ox-eyed daises, cornflowers, honeysuckle, etc. We strongly recommend that you collect seeds as you have such a large variety of local windflowers growing. Your Sundew festival is quite unique and it is apt to celebrate this wonderful plant. We also noted you organise a microbiology workshop, a swift talk and heritage walk. Good to read that you have noted an increase in the number of swift in Daingean over the past few years. They need our help. We see that you have taken the advice of a previous adjudicator and now have Let it Bloom in June and Fly in July. The rotation of No Mow areas is what's recommended as in this way, a variety of grasses and flowers will bloom in rotation. In wild meadow areas, when the grass is cut in September, it's best to leave it on the ground for a few days and then to remove it. The wildflower seed get a chance to fall so that they can grow the following year. Composting grass is nutrient rich and will over fertilize the ground thus reducing the amount of wildflowers which would grow. Remember, there's no need to put up a lot of signs as when the public see a neatly mown strip along the edges they will know that the area is managed and the long grasses are intentional. We drove out to the location of the Heronry and while we didn't see it we did see a heron flying over. We see that you have a well-known craft gardener advising you on Biodiversity – excellent. Advise from experts is always needed. We look forward to seeing more actions/project/results in the following years – but don't take on too much!

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

Many communities struggle with this category, but it's just about being aware of our use of the planet resources and how we can in our daily actions cut down on waste. We encourage TidyTowns organisations to leave by example. We see that you now are using perennial plants which will cut it on waste associated with annuals. We have no doubt that members in their own gardens regularly remove plants, which are no longer needed, including those that have spread. Encouraged these to put them in pots and make them available for a swap - 'Take a plant, Leave a plant', similar to the book swap that we see. We noted the new EV charging station at the square and one of the days we passed through there were two cars using the facility. Wonderful that you have locally sourced organic fertiliser for use in your planters – a win-win for both the suppliers and for your gardeners. Having two local suppliers is marvellous. Do you know what are those who sell coffee doing with the waste coffee grounds? Encourage them to put them in bags and make them available for the public to remove and put in their composting. You might also think about registering with SEAI as a community group, and this can then be advanced with a mentor from SEAI coming to talk to your community on the installation of solar panels and other energy saving methods/ equipment. Are you involved in the Green Flag programme with the local school? We have no doubt that help would be greatly welcomed by the teachers. Perhaps make raised beds and grow vegetables with one of the classes on an annual basis.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Do you take part in the An Taisce Annual Spring Clean? We encourage groups to taken part in nationwide Clean-Up events as it focuses the mind of the general public of the high amount of litter/fly tipping/ dumping that occurs nationally. You could also get individuals in the community to register for the #2minutestreetclean also organised by An Taisce. We're delighted that you have the support of the local CE scheme. Have you set days for volunteers attend organized litter picks? The presence of volunteers on the streets on a regular basis, is important to encourage the public to be vigilant in their litter disposal. Good to see that the new Canoe Club keep the canal litter free. Segregating the litter is time consuming so it is excellent to see that your volunteers have undertaken to do this. The reduction of landfill will be the result which is what we are all aiming for. The piers and entrance gates to the cemetery are quite beautiful, but please remove the signage. If, and we repeat if, they are required, they can be put on the low wall to the right of the cemetery. There are five individual signs about dogs, and two on cemetery policies. Just paint no parking on the footpath and then these signs too can be removed. Remember, signage is

clutter and detracts from streetscape. Weed and grass growth along footpaths, and road edges was noted – this must be removed in addition to litter.

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

Along the streetscape, houses and businesses are interspersed, but the majority of the residential areas are estates located adjacent to the main streets or on the outskirts of the town. You mention that you have 14 housing estates – we visited a few. Are there residents' associations in all of these estates? It's always encouraging, and a positive move, when residents take ownership of the areas where they live as this will result, not only in their own gardens being cared for, but also the community open space being well-maintained and welcoming. Perhaps the residents of Coologue estate, might assist others to develop residents' associations. We were interested to read that Daingean has the highest young population in Offaly having more residents under the age of 35 and any other town in the county. Wouldn't it be great to tap into this resource? It was good to see, that in many of the estates we visited residents had contributed to making their areas welcoming with freshly painted houses, boundary walls and fences. Some gardens had great displays of flowering perennials in shrub beds surrounded by grass. The new playground beside the canal was busy the day we visited. It is good to see the mix of natural and designed play equipped. Well done on raising the funds to develop this. In many of the housing areas, we noted weed growth along kerbs and also moss growth on footpaths, all of which gave and unkempt feel. While it is ongoing, this work needs to be carried out by your volunteers. The planting beds in Meadow Court were quite beautiful but the boat and surrounding area at the entrance communal space needs attention. In this estate, there were some very well-maintained, pollinator friendly gardens. In communal areas, not required for play, we suggest that some trees be planted. With global warming, we will need shading from trees. In addition not only are trees roasting and nesting sites for birds and insects but trees add to the value of a property. The planting bed along the block wall at the entrance to Coologue was admired. Perhaps also grow some climbing plants along this wall, which will eliminate the need for painting and will also be beneficial to wildlife. Elsewhere in this estate individuals had planted pollinator friendly flowers in public areas- we refer in particular to the small area along the GAA fence. It would be wonderful if this was continued all along this fence.

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

While you are situated on the busy R402, we noted that the traffic through the town in general, respected the 50K speed limit. Perhaps this is due to the sharp bend and junction, with the L1019 viewing to the north. The row of poplars on the entrance from the south, while small in number, are quite exquisite. Good to read about the wishing well project on the Tullamore Road. It's always good to honour our social history. We wonder what happened to the original blessed well. Is it on any of the historical maps? And was it filled in perhaps for road widening? The structure which has been constructed is quite elaborate. Some low level planting around the concrete base would enhance it. We recommend a discrete sign, informing the visitor of the history of the Blessed Well. The grass margins should be cut from the 60km signs (or 50km if 60k don't exist) on all entrance roads to the town including the L1019. This informs motorists that they are entering a settlement and so must reduce speed. A narrow strip is all that's required - we suggest 600 mm – and the area between this and the hedges are left unmown. It's wonderful that the R402 heading towards Edenderry passes along the canal bank and so motorists have the benefit of this green wildflower area. We noted the new steps leading from the road down to the canal – these, while well executed, had grass and weed growth which neds to be cut back to keep them safe for use. Interesting that you mentioned the needs of camper van users, as when we visited, we spoke to one owner, from France, who was looking for a location to overnight.

Concluding Remarks:

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

- In the Application Form please number the projects New (N1, N2, N3 etc) and M (M1, M2, M3 etc). This same numbering system to be used to indicate the locations of these projects on a map – N1, N2, N3 etc and M1, M2, M3 etc. If you wish you can colour code the various categories to make it even clearer. This is to help the adjudicators to negotiate their way around your village and see the various projects or locations of projects.
- The map should fill an A4 page and a north point is needed. Put the legend of the projects on the same page if possible – there's always space! We were wondering why you had two legend with projects indicated on both .. one is all that's needed. If you wish a legend of the main structures could be added, but we feel this is probably unnecessary as your town is quite compact.
- We recommend that you make a Five-Year Plan which concurs with the categories in the TidyTowns application form. Don't worry if you don't have projects/activities under each category. We recommend a Five-Year Plan rather than a Three-Year Plan as many activities/projects take longer than three years to be completed. The plan can show who on the committee will lead the activity/project, collaborators names (you'll need help from state and semi-state organisations with many of the projects), and it will also show progress each year with a tick saying it was 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 Daingean.