Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Edenderry - Éadon Doire**	Ref:	**550**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**344**
Category:	**E**	Date(s):	**08/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	51	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	39	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	35
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**332**	**344**

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 which included photos, and for your maps and Plan. See Concluding Remarks for suggestions for improvements regarding your Maps and Plan. Your committee of 14, is assisted by 9 volunteers. We were delighted to read that your Sunday morning litter pick-ups have attracted additional volunteers as truthfully for such a large town the number of volunteers is quite small. Hopefully when the community see you out and about in your hi-vis TidyTowns vests, and they look at your activities which you post on social media, you'll get a few more who will help, if just for a few times during the year. Your Facebook Page has 1.5K followers – add more 'good news' stories e.g. pictures of your flowers, insects, birds etc. You list your other communications channels - local newspapers, church notices, posters etc. All of these are crucial to inform the community of your activities and projects. Your involvement with the SuperValu Tidy Towns' competition since the late 1980s is admirable and we read that Edenderry has benefited with an improvement not only in the streetscape but also in environmental management. We have no doubt that these result in a sense of togetherness, pride and community spirit.

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

The single, two and three-storey buildings, the undulating topography, your street pattern, and the Grand Canal Harbour go to make up the architectural character of Edenderry. With these we have the imposing Saint Mary's RC Church, Castropetre CofI Church, Edenderry Town Hall, Saint Mary's Convent National School, Edenderry National School (now the Youth Café), various houses of merit including Blundell House, post-boxes etc. all adding to the architectural merit, history and beauty of the town. Many of the business premises along the streets had been freshly painted and presented very well. Some had made additional efforts and had colourful-pollinator friendly planters which added beauty to the streetscape. We admired the window displays of My Lovely Vintage, Byrne's and McGreal's. It's wonderful to walk along the street in the evening when it's quiet and admire shop window displays. Maybe have a 'Best Shop Window Display' competition. This will encourage others to make an effort. The Harbour area is very special and we loved the new fish murals. We also admired the utility box which we saw near St. Mary's Primary School. We suggest that others could have a similar artistic treatment undertaken. Choose topics that relate to Edenderry – history, celebrities, the Canal, Georgian architecture, nature etc. Unoccupancy and dereliction unfortunately exists in many of our towns where businesses have closed and no one has opened a new one. Many of these premises, are now being converted into residential units and we've read that this is planned for some of yours. We strongly recommend that you request Offaly Co Co to add a condition when commercial units (i.e shops) are granted permission to be converted into residential units. This condition to state that the shopfront,

frieze and name of the premises are to be retained. These are an important part of your architectural and social history which should be retained. Overhead service cables diminished the visual amenity of your streetscape especially where they feature several cables radiating from a single pole; the local engineer should be approached regarding a possible date for ducting, starting with the most unsightly poles first. We noticed that the gates at the entrance to the Castro Petre church are still in need of repair. The wall and one of the piers is also in need of attention. Could a Heritage Grant be available for all of this?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Blundell Park located high above the surrounding area is very beautiful with it mature trees, meadow grassland, paths and of course Blundell Castle. We loved that there is a skateboard park and also a beautifully painted community building where we chatted to two boys who were there playing their electric guitars. We were delighted to see that your youth are catered for. A narrow strip of the meadow grassland needs to be cut on both sides of the paths so that it is obvious that the grass is intentionally left long, rather than being neglected. In addition, you have numerous sporting facilities – playing fields associated with the schools, Derry Rovers AFC, Edenderry GAA and the par3 golf course. We noted the new trees in the Community Garden – we recommend that you clear a vegetation-free circle with a radius of 1M around each tree trunk for the first 3 years to allow the trees to benefit from the nutrients in the soil. The Grand Canal is of immense value to the town and we see that you have capitalised on this by the provision of facilities making it a safe environment for all to enjoy. We noted various planting beds around the town which we admired. The one at the Town Hall making a statement with the row of trees and surrounding box hedging. We also noted some planters along the streetscape. We recommend that next year trailing plants are added in loose planters which will give additional interest and also somewhat hide the planters. While you have a considerable number of trees there are areas/streetscapes which would benefit from more. Survey the town and identify where trees could be planted. Trees are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. They also reduce pollution, improve the appearance of a community and increase the value of property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food, roosting sites, and nesting sites for birds. Only plant trees suitable for an urban setting on the streetscape and if buildouts are required then ask that they be provided. We have no doubt that the biodiversity /pollinator-friendly level of planting will increase now that you have expert advice on your committee.

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

We were surprised to see the amount of green open fields/large gardens that exists in Edenderry. Nestled between housing estates there are great tracts of mature woodland and fields. In addition you have stone structures and walls, street trees, hedgerows, and the Edenderry branch of the Grand Canal giving the town a great variety of habitats for insects, birds, mammals and invertebrates. Do you know if there are any Daubenton bats? These live near water and nest under bridges. Contact Bat Conservation Ireland for information on how to conduct a survey. There are probably other species of bats in Edenderry due to your historical buildings. You mentioned bat roosting sites in Monasteroris church graveyard but failed to tell us anything about them. We visited the bat roost house at Blundell Park – what bats roost there? We read that it's new so perhaps none have taken up residence as yet. Are there swifts in Edenderry? This is another project for you to undertake. Swift nesting sites are in decline so if you haven't noticed swifts in your area, we recommend putting up swift boxes on the community buildings. These are easy to install and very important in our towns which, as we've said, now have few locations for the swifts to nest. Contact www.birdwatchireland.ie or www.swiftconservation.org for advice on their installation and maintenance. There were many area along the streetscape where great swards of oxeye daisies were growing – stunning.

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

This category encourages us to be mindful of how we use the planet's resources. We ask that Tidy Towns groups lead by example. We read that you attend talks and information sessions organised by Offaly County Council and the Offaly Local Development Company on topics such as composting, biodiversity and sustainability. How do you pass on this information to the community? From now on, put a post on your Facebook page. You mentioned that there are two compost areas which are maintained with the help of the Men's Shed. Where are these located? EV charging stations on O'Connell Squar were noted. Are there others? In a town as big as Edenderry, you should have a number of areas on the streets where there are EV charging stations in the addition to those located in Service Stations. While we never comment on unfinished projects we will comment on one – the Clean Air Study. We will be very interested to hear the results of this study which will be completed, you tell us, in September 2026. Find out the results and also the recommendations and tell us about them next year. We were delighted to read that you assisted in developing a garden and wooded area in the grounds of Scoil Bhríde Primary School. Through the railings we noted the polytunnel in St. Mary's. Are you involved with helping the teacher's grow vegetables with the pupils? It's wonderful that you have a Greenway so close to the town and having access via the Edenderry Canal spur which terminates almost in the town centre ensures that your community accesses it on a regular basis. We were delighted to see that we could also access the Greenway along a walkway at the bottom of Park View.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We read that you took part in the An Taisce National Spring Clean in April and that you are assisted by local clubs and the community as a whole. This year you had an additional task with the illegal dumping in Blundell Park. It is good that you have CE scheme participants who carry out weekday litter picking around the town. In large towns, such as yours, this is required in order to keep the streets and roads litter free. You and your volunteers meet every Sunday morning to carry out a little pick. When we visited Edenderry was practically litter free but weed growth was noticed in a few areas giving a slightly unkempt feel to these areas. Ask your volunteers to bring a spade, hoe and stiff brush with them and to also remove the weed growth. Your cobble lock paving will need to be power washed on

a regular basis to ensure that weeds do not take hold. Other Tidy Towns groups have removed the Mutt Mitts dispensers as nowadays dog owners who will clean up after their dogs will have bags in dispensers attached to the dog leads. We recommend that where dog fouling is a problem you paint signs on the pathways - 'Clean Up After Your Dog' or 'Pick up after you Pet.' This has worked well for other communities. Great to see the solar powered Big Belly Bin at the Canal Harbour. Would you think about having a Pick-a-Patch initiative where business owners take responsibility for their 'patch' in terms of litter and weed growth? When they register, you give them a sticker to post on their door which advertises their 'community involvement'. Cut the grass on each side of the path into the Cross at the site of Killane Church. The path is very narrow so perhaps it could be widen a little.

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

The centre of Edenderry is quite unusual with its streets of vernacular and Georgian houses sitting comfortably side by side commercial properties. We love when we see residential and commercial buildings mixed in the streetscape as it ensures activity on the streets when the business premises close. The standard of presentation of individual houses along the streets, on the approach roads and in the residential estates we visited was generally very good and we applaud the many home owners and occupiers who clearly take pride in their place and keep their front facades, road frontage, gardens and boundary walls well-presented and neatly maintained in support of your work. A few colourful window boxes and hanging baskets were seen along some streets – encourage all the residents to add these, as in addition to being good for our pollinators they also add to the appearance of the town. We visited a number of your estates – Kileden Lawn (trim back the growth which is encroaching slightly on the sign), The Sycamores, Rectory Meadows, Greenwood Park, Newbury Park etc. We noted quite a number had tree lined roads, with grass margins separating the pedestrians from the motorists, which we admired. The communal green space in Kileden Lawn was quite beautiful - coppices of trees with a dense shrub base below. Perhaps a row of trees around the edge could be considered? A number of house boundary walls in some of the estates need attention where walls have become quite weather stained. Don't forget to encourage the residents to grow pollinator friendly flowers. Have a look at the National Biodiversity data Centre website https://biodiversityireland.ie/website and https://biodiversityireland.ie/publications/ for ideas for individual gardens and for communal spaces. Edenderry Childrens' Playground was visited and the upgrade noticed. There are a number of block and pebble dashed walls along some of the communal green spaces which could/should become nature corridors. Plant ivy, pyracantha, honeysuckle etc. at the base of these walls and in a few years, there will be wonderful biodiversity corridors. In addition, it will remove the need for any maintenance of the wall. We see one already exists in your town on Granary Court Road

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

Neatly trimmed grass margins and hedge rows exist along the entrances to your town. It's good to see that pedestrian and cyclist routes exists the whole way to the Grand Canal along the R402, with the last section being shared with motorists. The colourful planters on the bridge over the canal greet the motorists informing them that they are entering an urban settlement and so need to reduce speed. It was good that there was a small area where a car can stop and admire the view of the Canal. The Edenderry name sign was clearly visible, but perhaps let the planting behind the sign grow taller so that the road signs and their poles are hidden as these distract slightly from the town name sign. The brown and yellow pavements are very dominant in your streetscape – we wonder why were these colours chosen as they overpower/detract from the beauty of the buildings. There was considerable amount of moss and some weed growth along some of these. Hopefully in time they will be replaced with concrete pavements which will be easier for you to maintain. We noted some new rumble strips and dropped kerbs at road junctions. It will be good when this exists at all road junctions. The roads are generally in good condition, although we noticed some ravelling where there had been previous repairs carried out - these will need to be redone shortly. Road markings however were poor/worn and in some cases non-existent. Undertake a survey and bring the results to the area office for their attention.

Concluding Remarks:

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

- Increase the scale of your map(s) – completely fill an A4 page with it (them). With any luck one map may then be sufficient. There is no benefit in adding heraldic shields – they take up valuable space on the page. The Legend was fine – this is needed.
- Only tell us about New (projects that have been completed from May 2026- 2027) and those which you Maintain You can numbers your projects: New – N1, N2, N3 etc and Maintained M1, M2, M3 etc.
- ALL other projects are to be in your Plan as Future Projects. Do NOT add any Future Projects to the application form or map. We refer e.g. to the Library and Arts Centre …. this was just a building site when we visited, and there were many, many more.
- We strongly recommend that you revise your Plan. Make it 'Edenderry Five Year Plan 2027-2031'. As you have already done list activities or projects which you wish to undertake under each category - this will help you to focus on the developments you want for Edenderry. Have additional columns with the following: show who on the committee will lead/progress the activity/project and show collaborators names (you'll need help from state and semi-state organisations with many of the projects). Put a tick each year after the topic when a project or activity has been undertaken/completed. We suggest this is best, 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 Edenderry.