Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Geashill - Géisil**	Ref:	**754**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**411**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**12/06/2026**
			21/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	59	61
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	55	57
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	52	54
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	33	35
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	41	43
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**396**	**411**

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 and your 3 year plan with projects marked as completed which we noted and appreciated. Your map was extremely informative showing a clear layout of the village including the various buildings and heritage structures. Your Geashill Tidy Towns Facebook page has over 1.9K followers and we see that it is updated regularly which is crucial for all social media feeds. Your village is seen to be one of a community working well together with a committee of 12 and a voluntary body of 10-15. You associate yourselves with other voluntary groups and also get advice and support from state and semi-state organisations. The Local Authorities now have large numbers of staff with experience in areas which are vital to Tidy Towns groups so we encourage you to ask for assistance which will be given willingly. Good to see that the new residents from abroad have joined you and bring with them new knowledge and skills. The Audio Guide – Voices of Geashill, and A Day in the Life of Geashill were great projects – something for the whole village. We are delighted to see that the images will be collated into an online folder and presented to Offaly History Archives during Heritage Week 2026. Your participation in the Tidy Towns competition for over 50 years is admirable and having the youth involved, through the local national schools and your Transition Year Programme, 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:

Geashill, a village at a crossroads, with a wonderful Village Green and a variety of heritage buildings and structures is it delight to visit. We loved the old schoolhouse, with the flat and gate and cattle crush access and read that it was built in 1862. The historical plaques which you are in the process of installing are quite beautiful. They give a small amount of information on the structure, which, truthfully, is all the visitor will remember. Compliments to the owner of the Forge on the Tullamore Road – with your help it is beautifully maintained. Although located on the busy Tullamore to Portarlington Road the vehicular traffic did not detect from our enjoyment of our visit to the village. We loved that the wall surrounding your Village Green is low and therefore the beauty of the green space is visible from the surrounding roads. The Spirit of the Cauldron Sculpture commemorating the Geashill Bronze Cauldron in the National Museum is wonderful. The Corten steel cauldron is a copy of the original Geashill cauldron which we read is the largest brewing pan found in Ireland or Britain. Mounted on four stones representing for key times in the cauldron's history it makes an interesting installation in the Village Green. Don't be tempted to put other structures into the green as this area as a parkland is beautiful as it is. We loved the beautifully painted utility box (remove the

ivy which is encroaching on it) and wonder if it is your plan to paint more of these in honour of other local celebrities. We noted quite a few picnic tables and seats – in the Village Green, and also at the Yellow Lock. Perhaps another seat could be put close to the train. The MUGA and playground were visited and we admired the timber play equipment in the playground. Natural play is to be encouraged with play spaces being made of mostly naturally-found material, earth mounding etc. and are therefore less susceptible to vandalism. Being awarded Community Recognition funding and developing the MUGA is commendable – well done The Playground Committee. The old Telefón box, now a book library, is in need of painting. It's good that you have retained the cream and green as these were the original colours and therefore should be retained. Unfortunately we have seen the colours changed with other TT groups. The bog buddies sculpture was admired – 22 animals, birds, insects, fish and human faces. Unfortunately, we didn't get time to look for them.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

It is wonderful to have a green space in the middle of a village and with the large Village Green and wonderful mature trees Geashill is quite unique. Close by are the grounds of the national school and also the grounds of Saint Mary's church and Geashill Castle. All of these locations have great displays of mature trees which are great roosting, nesting and feeding places for birds and insects. You have some wonderful planting beds around the village which were buzzing with insect life when we visited. We particularly admired the narrow, planting bed along the entrance road from Tullamore. We admired the Butterfly wall but question if climbers such as pyracantha, ivy etc might be more suited as these will not only provide biodiversity, but also negate the needs to paint this wall in the future. We noted the begonias are a thing of the past …. of which we approve. We admired the planting barrels at the train and pump but suggest that low level planters would be more suited at the pump as the barrels slightly hide this historic feature. Some seedlings were growing in the gravel beside the train and pump, and we recommend that these be removed and planted along the pebble dashed wall. Here they could become a planting bed in due course. Well done on distributing 6,500 trees with the LA Biodiversity Officer – next year let us know, roughly, how many of the 110 individuals and community groups planted these. Statistic such as these tell us truthfully the interest that exists … we hope that the results are to your satisfaction.

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

On the approach roads, and within the village itself, there are great number of natural hedgerows, great large mature trees, stone structures and walls, and the beautiful Village Green which gives a great variety of habitats for insects and mammals. The hedgerows were very colourful with a variety of wildflowers in bloom and were buzzing with insect life – foxglove, ox-eyed daises, cornflowers, etc. all in bloom. The Glebe Walk linking the Village Green and Tullamore Road, although quite short, is a great location for your wildlife. Keep the trees and grasses trimmed so that the walkway is free of encroaching branches etc. We love the area in the centre where we could sit and just listen to the sounds of the birds. The Yellow Lock on the Portarlington Road is another area for residents and visitors to sit surrounded by nature. While it is well maintained sections are allowed to grow wild and so attract small mammals, etc. The Dropped Pin is wonderful and great that you have identified the school as the location for this project – the students will be excited when the plants grow and the insects arrive. Perhaps undertake a Fit Count with the different classes which will give them added interest. The newly installed wildlife pond and surrounding area in the Village Green will mature nicely in time - we must revisit in a year or so. Congratulations on being announced the Community Champions by LAWPRO with your video describing the Yellow Lough Wetlands and Raingarden. Let us know of the success of the Barn Owl project. The Geashill Bioblitz was wonderful – well done to all involved. Have your bee blocks had any visitors?

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

This category where many communities struggle is about being aware of how we use the resources of the planet so that we cut down on our waste. We particularly encourage Tidy Towns committees to lead by example. We noted the mini orchard planted in the Yellow Lough area. Hopefully, in time they will mature and give you fruit. Good to see that you have planted varieties suited to the Irish climate. We note that you supplied over 270 fruit trees to residents. A survey of this too is needed – hopefully almost all have survived. The installation of solar panels is now being undertaken by many residents and community groups – good that Geashill too ins involved. The children's garden in the school grounds is amazing. We chatted to a few children who were playing hide and seek and they told us that the cleaning lady helps them with the garden. Please thank her for giving the children this wonderful experience of growing fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. The wormery, with it beautifully illustrated container, we were assured by the children is regularly examined. The signage on the school wall tell us that 'The 3 R's are cool in Geashill School'. The school bottle top mural beside the entrance is quite beautiful. Compliments to those involved in its creation. Good to see electric car charging point in the school grounds. Is this the only one in Geashill? We loved the bicycle rack in the school grounds. What an excellent use of old bicycles! Great that your three leaf cages have produced top quality nutrient rich compost which you now use to mulch newly planted trees. We see that you have 10 rainwater harvesting barrels in Geashill which you use to water your planting beds. Have many of the residents got water butts? Perhaps something for you to encourage.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Good to see that you took part in the An Taisce Annual Spring Clean and that you also completed a winter clean of road verges and green spaces in February. 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 loved your new dog fouling signs - very clear indicators of what is required by dog owners. Perhaps put one or two more around the village in areas where dog fouling is a problem. Wonderful to see that you have noticed a decline

by approximately 85% in recent years although dog ownership has increased particularly since Covid. We are delighted to report that Geashill was virtually litter free, which is a great credit to your volunteers. While some weed growth was noted at pavement/ wall junctions, which gave these areas an unkept feel, in the main, the streetscape was weed free. Your volunteers are to be commended by their diligence in this matter. The path between the traffic lights and the school to the west of the Village Green needs to be swept regularly due to its location under trees. It was quite littered with sticks, etc., when we visited. We admired the bottle bank area and loved the trellis with the butterflies and planting beds. We're delighted that you are supported by the council in the road sweeper service. This is crucial for villages and towns in order to maintain them weed and litter free. The Biodiversity Action Plan and bird name signs on the train are in need of sanding and varnishing. Elsewhere, where you have signs, it is important that they can be read. Trim back ivy and grasses as appropriate. We refer in particular to signs at the Yellow Lough.

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

Set in rural Offaly and close to Tullamore, the residents have contributed positively to making the village extremely pleasant. Many of the houses were freshly painted including boundary walls and fences and those with gardens were neatly kept welcoming the visitor. Some residents had shrubs and herbaceous borders and some had specimen trees as features. Single and two storey traditional houses are the predominant style of houses along the entrance road and in the village. In addition there are a number of one and a half storey houses built c. 1880 and their architectural merit adds significantly to the streetscape. The small St. Oliver's housing estate, that of Árd Ríada and also of Ballydown were visited. Take care of the planting in front of the names signs Árd Ríada. Don't allow the plants to grow too tall and therefore obscure the sign. We admired the planting along the blank wall, which gives interest to the estate in addition to being good cover for our wildlife. The large communal open space would benefit from some tree planting – it's a little bare. Perhaps a row along the edge of the footpath might be considered. There was quite a lot of weed growth around the shrubs in the planting beds at the entrance which needs to be removed. Well done on the work in front of St. Oliver's estate. In time this area will mature nicely. It is wonderful to see that unoccupancy has decreased from six houses to five. Unoccupancy bring negativity which leads to buildings becoming derelict and so the reduction of unoccupancy is to be celebrated. Working with the residents in the individual houses and in the housing estates is to be encouraged and advising them on pollinator friendly shrub and flower planting will be beneficial to all our insect bird and mammal life. Perhaps it's time to introduce a Best Kept Pollinator Friendly Garden competition? The award, a certificate, to be presented at your AGM or an evening where the local press and elected members are invited to attend.

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

Grass margins, some lined with mature trees give a natural appearance to the entrances to the village. We admired the walkway, separated from the road by a grass margin, which extends west towards Tullamore. The planting beds along this road, mentioned earlier, give a wonderful entrance. We loved the Phlomis russeliana (Turkish sage) with its luscious foliage and bright yellow flowers which are packed with nectar, vigorously attracting bees and other pollinators through the summer months. The stone planter on the Ballinagar Road has also been planted with flowers to attract our pollinators. Road surfaces in the village are poor with edge breakup, potholes and unravelled repairs in many areas. A survey of the roads, both in the village and on the approaches, is needed making a list of repairs which are required in addition to worn road markings. Bring this to the attention of the area office and see when will these works be carried out. Compliments to the sign designer and maker of the Alderborough Woodland Signs. The new stone piers into the Yellow Lough car park compliment the surrounding stonewalls. There are some fine stone walls in and around Geashill which give the village strength and formality. Unfortunately, many of these were hidden behind ivy. Remove the ivy so as to expose these beautiful manmade structures. Ivy roots penetrate between the joints in stonework, and in time cause mortar to dislocate finally leading to the collapse of the wall – but please get advice on the way to approach this so as not to cause damage. Good to read about your grass cutting regime. It is indeed important to remove the cuttings and allow wildflowers to grow.

Concluding Remarks:

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

- Only add in projects/activities in your application form which are either New (i.e. completed) or Maintained. All projects/activities in the planning stage go into you 5 year PLAN – e.g. the sculpture by Finnish Artist which is not due for completion until September 2026. This will be in NEXT year's application form.
- As you are colour coordinating the categories in the application form (which we loved), you could begin each category at the number ONE (1) using the colours you have selected – Streetscape and Public Places – red; Green Spaces and Landscaping – green; Nature and Biodiversity - brown, etc.

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. Please commend the volunteers, residents and business owners for their work in making your village a beautiful place to visit. Your success in this competition is a result of your drive, determination and the hard work by you, the committee, and by your volunteers. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Geashill.

Second Round Adjudication:

Congratulations on another great entry into Tidy Towns. It was a pleasure to visit your village to see the consistent improvements and the many additions made over the years

First impressions were great and key focal points like the environs of Stewart's Gala (Inver garage) appear much

improved. Despite the casual dining area and covered seating, it was very clean and tidy. The painted cut-out butterflies fixed to the grey concrete wall are very attractive and the fresh planting underneath was holding up well in the constant heat. The Recycling area at far corner was spotless and well disguised with timber planting beds and trellis. Keep an eye on maintenance of same. The clear segregation of waste in the bins out front was also noted.
It is lovely to have a designated footpath separated from the busy R420. Keep a close eye on brambles or other plants that interfere with this pleasant walk and remove dead Ash trees if they are becoming a threat to walkers.
Several young trees planted on top of the mound are suffering from dehydration. The warm dry weather has stressed these trees. It demonstrates how planting trees on a high mound is risky in our unpredictable climate.
Ratheen GAA Club is one of the best presented clubs around the country, with black woodwork and trim on a light grey building. Their trees up the road are very impressive. Keep an eye on suckers and deadwood.
The green/park is a wonderful space at the heart of the village and it's great to see that damage to the stonewall has been nicely repaired. The mature Lime trees should have their suckers removed. This old variety of Lime is prone to suckering. As they are approaching the end of their growing life it is important to give them all the care possible e.g. the removal of dead branches and it would be wise to have several trees planted to replace them when they reach the end of their life. They play an important role in your landscape. The information boards are excellent and in good repair. The Library in the Phone box appears to be well used. The Phone box itself needs a fresh coat of paint. Again, the hot summer has probably accelerated the paint peeling process at roof level.
All the properties at the crossroads are in good repair, which is important. I spotted the Tula McKay painting on the service box close by. There are other service boxes some of them much larger in proximity that could receive a similar treatment. There is a particularly plain concrete gravel board wall in the green space behind the Rev Burbage monument that could be greened with ivy in an aesthetic/biodiversity intervention. I was excited to visit the new pond and found that I was a little underwhelmed by its lack of scale. Perhaps an enlargement would make it more accessible to more wildlife.
The Glèbe Walk is very pleasant, and it is remarkable to see what you have achieved in this narrow linear hedgerow environment. All furniture and bridges were in good repair and it's nice to see young Oaks and Hollies thriving in this well trafficked environment. The composting facilities appear to be working well, and your new leaf mould receptacles are doing a great job. Again, there is great information to be had on your notice boards
Regarding Approach Roads, the Geashill signs that are under planted with campanula, salvia and dwarf Verbena, etc., in low-rise stone beds are very successful. This is the best way to raise plants slightly in a natural container that will last longer than any other material and they allow plants roots to access the soil below. Many premises like the High Chaparral have made great use of window boxes that catch the eye as do the old cottages and Hamiltons.
Your residential areas are well cared for. Ard Ridha is very attractive with large green manicured areas and grassy meadow areas. There are lots of great front gardens and several good trees in green spaces that could be augmented. There is also an opportunity to green some concrete wall with ivy. I noted several houses with solar panels on their roofs. The incorporation of knapweed and marjoram at the top of the meadow adds great colour.
There were some great colours and a small lawn area to the entrance. The Pampas grass was providing a great display. It appeared to be sprayed underneath but perhaps the eye was tricked by sun damage to weeds
Ballydown is still under construction, but it has some great birch trees that will give a greater sense of maturity if they can be protected during the building phase. The stone wall at the entrance is impressive
St Oliver's was litter free, a nice green space at its heart and some nice trees to the road. One dead tree could be removed and replaced
The rain garden/wetlands/standing stones park provide a very interesting space to stop off with ample parking. The stand of oak trees is gorgeous, some variety like Turkish oak. The historical information about the Spanish brothers Eber and Eremon who ruled Ireland until their battle in the 1700s is fascinating as are the copper shields. Keep an eye on encroachment from brambles and docks.
The school garden was full of great fruit and veg, sensory plants, recycling ideas and lots of useful information. It is a credit to all involved.
All in all Geashill is deserving of its high scores across the categories and I commend you one and all for your achievements