Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Killeigh - Cill Aichidh**	Ref:	**596**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**304**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**09/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	37
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	20	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	39
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**293**	**304**

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, map with projects indicated and photos. Next year just number the projects on the mar and then add a legend … it'll make the map less cluttered and easier for the adjudicators to see the projects when they visit. Your Killeigh Residents Association – Tidy Towns Facebook page has over 500 followers which is good for a community of your size. Remember to update this regularly, as this is crucial for all social media feeds. Your application was difficult to read … was it scanned and then sent? We suggest that you use the Word document and then just save it as a pdf. before sending it to the Department. Your committee of 14 has the help of an additional 43 volunteers. You engage with Offaly Co Co for advice from their in-house experts and also with your Elected Representatives in addition to local businesses and community groups. You have participated in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition for 23 years which is excellent and we are delighted to read that participation has 'brought joy and fun while boosting the community'. Truthfully this is the spirit of the competition. For future applications, please only note the new and maintained projects in the application form. Put all future projects into a separate document – we suggest a five-year plan. Under each category have one or two projects or actions which you will carry out. There is no need to include a large number under each category, as you are a small community.

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

Situated on the busy N80 your built environment has a great variety of architectural styles which give character to your village. The topography with the Village Green at the centre, is quite unique and we are delighted to see that the original structures on the Main Street are being renovated and given a new lease of life. The Community Centre is a beautiful recently renovated building on the approach road from Tullamore and adds greatly to the merit of the village. We noted the work completed in the car park. The Ball Alley is special. It tells of your social history and is important in the streetscape. We were glad to see that it is still used by those playing handball and also by those practicing hurling skills. Using the Old School built in 1829 for your meetings is perfect – it's important to keep structures such as these in use, as otherwise they quickly fall into disrepair. The church grounds and graveyards were visited and the work undertaken by you noted. The display of pollinator, friendly planting behind the railings of the CofI Killeigh Parish Church was beautiful. Good that your TY students painted the entrance gates and fencing to the Blessed Wells as part of their Gaisce Award. It's always great when young people become involved in their community.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The wonderful Village Green in the centre of the village is a huge asset to your community. We read about the work you're doing around the trees but have you considered leaving the grass grow instead? We suggest that around each tree you allow the grass to grow in a radius of say 800 /900mm from the tree trunk. Wild flowers and grasses will grow and due to the circular shape it will be seen obvious that the area is maintained (no need for signs). Then in September cut the grass and leave it for a day or so before removing it. In a few years you will have a beautiful wildflower meadow space under each tree. We ask if you got professional advice on the pruning and thinning of the trees? Unfortunately, groups undertake this task and sometimes damage is the result and the tree is made unsafe and must be removed. It would be a pity if you lost some of these wonderful trees. We admired the planting around the village and around the Village Green, particularly that along the pebble dashed wall. Your volunteers have certainly made the village, including approach roads, welcoming with the profusion of colourful flowers and plants. We noted the large sign of the trees along the walkway to the Seven Blessed Wells. We advise that when you introduce the individual tree signage on the walk to have small discrete signs – don't clutter this very beautiful nature walk. Your new beech hedge is growing well. Did you include any hawthorn for biodiversity? It's always good if hawthorn can be included.

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

Along the approach roads and in your village centre you have great mature trees and hedgerows, stone structures and walls, farmland etc. and along with the beautiful small tributary of the Clodiagh River, you have a great variety of habitats for insects and mammals both in Killeigh and the surrounding area. We see you have swift nest boxes and we wonder if any have been used? You might need to supplement them with a lure/caller. You mention the Abbey – are there swifts in this building. Prior to the installation of swift nest boxes, we witnessed swifts using the attic space of old buildings. We wonder if you have them too. While we visited the Blessed Wells, unfortunately we did not see the beehives in the adjoining field. It's wonderful that you have a beekeeper in your locality and particularly as you tell us, his honey is 'only delicious'! You have a 'Don't Mow Let it Grow' policy which you say produces wonderful flowers in May. We suggest you ask your residents to rotate the period for cutting grass and also to have a 'No Mow June' and 'No Mow July' so that you get a variety of wildflowers growing during the summer. Well done to those who produced The Very Hungry Caterpillar – what a bit of fun on the streetscape.

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

When this category was introduced many communities struggled until they realised that it's just about being aware of our use of the planet resources and how we can, in our daily lives with our actions, cut down on waste. Good to read that you planted 6 apple trees from your participation in the Hare's Corner project. We assume the Tullamore Tidy Towns 3 gifted fruit trees were also planted in this area on the Green? And now you have the 'Orchard Walk'! Good that you will make a Dead Hedge which will separate your storage building and compost area. We congratulate the children of the National School on achieving their Global Citizenship Green Flag Award. The new storage container was noted tucked away at the rear of the Green - finally you have a location to store tools etc. We suggest that you ask gardeners when they are removing or separating plants which they no longer want, to put them into pots/containers and then make them available for the community - 'Take a Plant, Leave a Plant' similar to the 'Take a Book, Leave a Book' which has become very popular. We also recommend that you collect wildflower seeds growing along your roads, and plant these, as these are the ones that will grow well for you. In addition, they are free and also by doing this you cut down on waste associated with bought products.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We assume you take part in the All Ireland An Taisce Spring Clean Event. When the community sees a large number of volunteers in their high viz vests picking litter and removing weeds it reminds them to be vigilant in their own waste disposal methods. Your Litter Pick-Up and Weed Removal volunteers meet one a week to work. It's good that this is formalized as this too is noted by the whole community. Great to read about the 'Get Along Gang' who scuff weed growth for the adults to collect. Where dog fouling is a problem we recommend that you paint 'Clean Up After you Dog' on the footpath, or indeed make up a pictogram, instead of installing signs. Remember, signs are clutter and detract from a streetscape. The policy for dog litter is 'Any Bag, Any Bin' and we assume that you too have this policy? We have been told that in Germany a fine ranging from €55-€150 is charged for not carrying a dog waste bag. It would be wonderful if this became the norm in Ireland too. Wonderful that ivy was removed from the Eir telephone exchange and a stone wall was uncovered. Ivy causes untold damage to stone structures and should be removed. The roots enter between the stones, weakening the wall and finally leading to its collapse. While ivy is wonderful for nature so too are stone walls which act as habitats for insects, small birds and mammals. So please remove ivy from your stone wall structures. We admired the signage who told us about the Seven Blessed Wells and the Rag Tree - small, simple and clear. Some of the black-and-white poles were extremely dirty and detracted from the streetscape. Chemical weed control had been used along the edges of footpaths (e.g. on the Village Green and in some housing estates). This practice results in an unsightly bare strip along the grass edge. You have a lot of signs around the village, remember, signage is clutter.

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

Located in rural Offaly you have well maintained vernacular single and two storey houses in the centre of the village and on approach roads there are farmhouse surrounded by neatly kept yards and fields. The standard of presentation of individual houses within the village environs, on the approach roads and in the residential estates 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. Some residents had wonderful displays of colourful, pollinator friendly flowers, which were a

delight to see. We love to hear that houses in a village are being renovated and brought back to life and in your village, we see that this is occurring. The naming of an estate is generally based on the location - trees, vistas, townlands, etc. It will be great for the residents of the estates when they are named that finally an estate name stone can be erected at the entrances. The green area in front of Hillview Crescent with its mature trees is quite beautiful. The large name stone would benefit from additional colourful planting to the sides and rear. Don't plant anything in front as this will hide the name. The colourful display of flowers along the roadside edge to the rear of the estate was quite pretty – commend the resident who undertook this work for the benefit of all. Don't forget to encourage the residents to grow pollinator friendly flowers 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:

Located on the busy N80, we are delighted to report that when we visited the majority of the motorists had reduced speed, making it safe for pedestrians. We note that the grass areas on the approach roads are maintained by your volunteers. It's good to see grass margins trimmed and the area beyond allowed to grow and produce wildflowers and grasses in addition to being habitats for nature. Driver Speed feedback signs work well and we regularly see vehicles responding to the flashing red speeding light – it will be good when yours are repaired. We were delighted to see that the foot paths extend out beyond the 50K speed limit making it safe for pedestrians who live in these areas to access the village on foot. The new tarmac foot paths beside the Community Centre was also admired. It's good to see that either tarmac or concrete is being used by the LAs as this is easier to maintain weed free than small paviours which were previously used. Road surfaces were in good condition generally, and in most areas road markings were clear and legible. Some will need repainting shortly.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Killeigh, a village we have passed through many times so it was a pleasure to take the time and visit the surrounding roads and see the treasures there.