Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Moneygall - Mhuíne Ghaill**	Ref:	**930**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**349**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**19/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	29	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	41
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**338**	**349**

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 and map. The map was hand drawn which was perfect and all of the projects, while not marked specifically, were found. We tried to open the Facebook address you gave us … it didn't work. We did however open https://www.facebook.com/Moneygall/ which is a general Moneygall Facebook Page. It would be good if you had a specific Moneygall Tidy Towns Facebook page (see concluding remarks). Your committee of 6 has the help of an additional 3 volunteers. We read that you engage with Tús and National Tidy Towns. It is important to expand this list so that the community know of your existence. We have no doubt that if you ask local businesses for their support (financial, manpower, advice etc.), they will gladly offer it. In addition, we strongly advise you to engage with Offaly Co Co – their area office, heritage officer, biodiversity officer, climate action officer, etc. who will be of tremendous assistance to you if you ask. We were delighted to read that the local school children and teachers assist you. Involving children in the activity of their community, nurtures a love in them of their village. You have participated in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition for 17 consecutive years which is excellent. We have no doubt that participation has supported the social, environmental and economic aspects of the village, in addition to strengthening community pride.

Please see Concluding Remarks for advice on filling out the Application Form and producing a Map.

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

Your neat, tidy Main Street gives a very good first impression to the visitor but it lacks trees (see below in Landscaping). This street consist of a mixture of single and two-storey vernacular houses, interspersed with some commercial properties. Saint's Joseph's RC church was beautifully presented and we loved that black paint had been selected for the railings so that the complete structure of the church is visible from the road. The area would benefit from some landscaping as at the moment the grounds are very barren. The stone surround with the bell has been planted. As you want the bell to be seen it is important that low planting/flowers are selected. You might also add some trailing plants for additional interest. We noted a few flat iron gates along the street – maybe paint these all in one colour to emphasise their existence. You have some unoccupied buildings which is a pity as unoccupancy very quickly leads to dereliction. Some of these properties were commercial units. We strongly recommend that if these are bought and converted into residential accommodation that you ask the Local Authority to add a Condition to the Planning Permission stating that the shop front, frieze and shop name are to be retained. This is important for the social and architectural history of your village. We were delighted to see that the shopfront and name of 'Hayes'

has been retained and also the ‘J.Collison’ name. We commend those who have done this.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We visited your Moneygall Biodiversity Park and noted that you have left a small grass margin around your trees, of which we approve. You could make these unmown areas larger – we recommend a radius of 90cm from the tree trunk which would give a very pleasant overall effect to the landscaping of your Park. The planters on the recesses in the stone wall on the approach road were noted. We suggest that next year you add trailing plants for additional interest, as these will add movement along the streetscape. We admired the neatly edged flower bed with the roses at the junction of the R445 and St. Joseph’s Terrace and also the small roundabout with the tree and roses at the junction of Church Road and St. Joseph’s Terrace. We also loved that you have picked out the kerb stones in white paint to draw emphasis to the feature – this is always very effective in a streetscape. The sucker growth at the base of the tree needs to be removed. We admire that this rose has been selected by you for a number of your flowerbeds, and this creates uniformity in your planting, which is perfect. There is a distinct lack of trees on your main street. Now that you have been bypassed you no longer need all the parking that exists on the main street. We strongly recommend that you approach Offaly Co Co architects and request that build-outs are constructed along the street and the trees and flowerbeds are planted. The main structural elements in the landscape and one of the main structural elements in a streetscape are trees. The addition of trees would greatly improve the visual attractiveness of your village. The benefit of trees to mental health and wellbeing is widely known. By planting and caring for trees, you help reduce pollution, improve your surroundings, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food, roosting and nesting sites for birds. And now we have the additional benefit in terms of shelter from the sun which will be needed more and more due to global warming.

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

Habitats of value for nature and biodiversity include trees, hedgerows, woodlands, and stone walls and in Moneygall you have your share. There are some wonderful mature trees in and around Moneygall and as you are a village with farmland surrounding you, you have a variety of habitats for birds, insects, and mammals. There is a wonderful wildflower area near the school which was full of oxeye daisies, foxgloves, poppies, fennel, and a variety of grasses and when we visited was alive with buzzing insects. It’s great to hear that the school children go to the Biodiversity Park as part of their nature program. It’s always good to hear that areas such as this are being used for educational purposes. There is a high bank in St Flannan’s Park that would make a wonderful wildflower bank. In September cut the grass and remove it so that the ground is starved of nutrients and this will encourage wildflower growth. This may take a few years to develop, but it will be worth the wait. If you wish you could help it along and rake in some scattered Irish wildflower seeds which you could collect along your ditches. It would be good to see some planting along the long wall in the church carpark which would create a biodiversity corridor. Truthfully where block walls exist in your town they are ideal location for plants such as ivy, pyracantha, honeysuckle, wisteria etc. Good that you attended a biodiversity workshop and we hope that this helped you in your work.

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

When this category was introduced some years back Tidy Towns groups were confused but now we all know that it is just about cutting down on waste and being aware of our use of the planet’s resources. We noted a metal stile at the entrance to a field and beside a post indicating a walking route ‘The Rock of Loyer Loop Walk’. Trim the growth which is encroaching on this feature so that it is evident that this is the route for those who wish to undertake this walk. While we’re not in favour of signage, as it clutters the streetscape and landscape, we recommend that a small discrete map of the walk is installed here. Good to see the bicycle racks in the village so that those cycling can leave their bikes in safety while they have a cup of coffee in the community café. What does the café do with the waste coffee grinds? These are wonderful for acid-loving and nitrogen-hungry plants such as blueberries, hydrangeas, azaleas and roses. Spread a thin layer of coffee grinds around these plants and then rake it into the soil – this provides a gentle nitrogen boost, and also helps maintain the soils acidity. We visited the school grounds and we’re delighted to see that there were two timber surround planting beds with vegetables and flowers growing. It would be good if this was expanded – this is something that you could assist with. We love when we see that children are involved in growing vegetables as, in later years, perhaps they will become involved with an allotment and here share with others what they learnt in national school. The two EV charge points at the Community Centre were noted. The green marking will need to be painted at some stage in the near future as it is slightly worn. It’s wonderful to read that the Moneygall Community Café is using products from the local community garden. Unfortunately, your garden was locked and so we couldn’t walk around. We did however admire the work that has been carried out which we could see through the gate. Good to see the solar lights around the walking track at the football club grounds.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We read that you take part in the All Ireland An Taisce Spring Clean Event. This is a wonderful way for the whole community to be alerted to litter and fly-tipping. We also read that the school children are involved in this event and during the year they assist you in litter picking. We are delighted to report that, when we visited, your village was virtually litter free and the small amount of weed growth noted did not make the area seem unkempt. Well done to the Tús workers, you, the school children and your volunteers. The clothes bank is extremely rusty and detracts from the area. We recommend that either a new one is requested or that you paint the one that exists. We know that it is outside your area of control but we request that you ask the school management board to advise their gardeners to stop using chemical weed control. It had been used around footpaths, resulting in the grass edge being burnt, and also it had been used around the fruit trees. Chemical weed control has also been used at the path

edges at the picnic area on the Limerick Road. Here too it must be stopped. One of the seats in the picnic area has been damaged and should be replaced. The sign at Moneygall Wishing Well needs to be repainted. Check the ties and posts of your trees in the Biodiversity Park – remember that they should be removed when they are no longer needed. The black weed barrier should be covered with additional bark mulch in your planting beds in the Park – they are unsightly at present. In a few areas, we noted signage was dirty and some need to have the paint redone (they are rusty) and the glass cleaned (information couldn't be clearly read).

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

As stated previously, your village street is comprised of single and two-storey vernacular houses. The standard of presentation of individual houses on the main street, within the village environs, on the approach roads and in the residential estates was generally very good. 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. Many of the houses on the Main Street had been recently painted and presented extremely well. Some had colourful window boxes and planters, which were full of pollinator-friendly flowers. Others had planters with evergreens, which also added to beauty of the streetscape. We also visited your housing estates – Rathcarn, St. Joseph's Terrace, Mountain View, The Orchard and Elderberry Drive where here too we saw well maintained gardens. A small number of garden boundary walls in some of the estates need attention where walls have become weather stained. We recommend that additional trees are planted along the streetscape and in small coppices in the communal open spaces at Rathcarn. Perhaps also a few picnic benches could be installed? 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:

You are located on the old N7 and we have no doubt that with the construction of the M7 you have witnessed a calmness in your village with the reduction of through traffic. The renamed wide R445 gives great views across the landscape as we approached your village from the north. We were delighted to see that a footpath extends as far as the Obama Plaza making it safe for pedestrians to access these nearby commercial facilities. The picnic area on the Limerick Road was visited and here we sat for a while and enjoyed the sounds of nature around us. This area is very well maintained, and as a credit to you and your volunteers – but cease using chemical weed control at path edges. Some of your road surfaces were poor – edge break up, potholes, and areas which had been previously repaired now unravelling. In addition, road markings were quite worn and missing completely at some road junctions. Something for you to bring to the attention of the area office. We noted the new dipped kerbs and rumble strips at some of the road junctions. Will these be installed at all road junctions? These are needed to help those who are visually impaired, those using wheelchairs and mobility scooters, those pushing buggies and young children cycling, to cross the road in safety.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition … we have a few suggestion for 2027

- We recommend that you open a Moneygall Tidy Towns Facebook page where you can tell the community of events that you are organising and of projects that you intend commencing or are maintaining. This might encourage others to become volunteers if only for one project. You could also take photographs of flowers, trees, insects, workers undertaking a project, etc., etc. If Facebook is not something you're familiar with, we suggest that you ask a youth to be your PRO who will look after this for you. PRO for Moneygall Tidy Towns will look very good on their CV.
- It would be lovely to see some before and after photos of your work inserted into the various categories in the application form. Another job for your PRO.
- Is it time for you to make a Five Year Plan? This will focus your activities and projects and you could ask the community for ideas of projects that they would like to see undertaken. You will need help with many of these, so add collaborators such as Offaly Co Co etc. to the plan.
- We need you to number the new projects and also those which you maintain. These numbers are then transferred to your map so that the adjudicators can locate them with ease.

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. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Moneygall, a village we passed through many times, when it was located on the old N7. Keep up the good work and we look forward to our return visit.