Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Tullamore - Tullach Mhór**	Ref:	**727**
County:	**Offaly**	Mark:	**402**
Category:	**G**	Date(s):	**12/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	60	61
Streetscape & Public Places	80	56	58
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	42	44
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	27	29
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	48	50
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	48	49
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**388**	**402**

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 contained photos and maps. Have you a 5 Year Plan? This is something you need to undertake. Your map when printed on A4 was extremely small and we needed a magnifying glass to see the project numbers. Your Tullamore Tidy Towns Facebook page has 2.6K followers and we see that it is updated regularly which is crucial for all social media feeds. Nice to see that the volunteers are rewarded with the Summer BBQ – we hope you had good weather. We also opened your Instagram accounts and Website. Your Website is particularly good so compliments to your PRO. Lots of information on your activities including the junior connections. The committee of 12 manages a volunteer force of 100 which is no mean feat! Isn't it wonderful to have so many of the community willing to help in projects/activities – well done. You are associated with other voluntary groups in Tullamore and also get advice and support from Tullamore Municipal District, and other state and semi-state organisations. Local Authorities have large numbers of staff with experience in disciplines which are vital to Tidy Towns groups so we are delighted to read of your involvement with the Area Office. While you 'aim to nurture Junior Tidy Towns' we're unsure if you have set up a Junior Tidy Towns group? We read that you have new residents from abroad and other groups amongst your volunteers. Social inclusion is important and we have seen in other communities new skills from new residents adding to the wealth of the area. Your participation in the Tidy Towns competition for 63 years is admirable and having 'experienced people in professional fields dedicated to giving back to their Community' brings with it a great commitment to the town.

See Concluding Remarks for advice on filling out the application form and producing a map.

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

Being the County Town bring its challenges but with that there are also benefits. We loved the idea of 'Team Tullamore' and see that through this the enhancement of Tullamore town centre is progressing. Shops, offices and residential accommodation sit comfortably side by side on your streets and we love to see this mixture of building uses. It ensures, the streets are vibrant when the business premises close. O'Connell Square is surround by some fine buildings many of which are on the Record of Protected Structures. There are other squares and plazas which you mention in your application form and list works which have been undertaken. It's good to see that surveys undertaken by the local authority have recorded and mapped various aspects of buildings and sites in the town. We noted there are quite number of shopfronts rated as 'poor'. Resulting from the surveys the local authority will prepare a Shopfront Enhancement Scheme. We look forward to this. While the utility boxes painted green are

unobtrusive and so acceptable (e.g. those on the Spollanstown Road junction), a future project could be to paint these to celebrate local heroes, local celebrities, or local historic events. Other utility boxes which would definitely benefit from a makeover are those opposite the Municipal District Offices. Here, because there are so many, a story line could run through the group linking them together.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The wonderful Lloyd Town Park is it credit to the local authority. It's location close to town ensures that it is well used by the community. We spent some time meandering around meeting those walking with their dogs or looking to make a 'personal best' in running! The land slopes from the road down the paths while in the park itself gabions making large stepped areas give ease of maintenance to the landscape contractors. We admired the wide walkways with wonderful mature trees on all sides. We see that all ages are catered for with the playground, skateboard park and adult exercise machines. The playground was well used when we visited and we see it was upgraded in 2024. Does the skateboard park also need an upgrade? We see it was opened in 2006 (we read the faded board) and the design and form have changed considerably in the intervening 20 years. We feel if it was redesigned it would be better used by the youth. Interesting to read about Kilcruttin Cemetery. The stunning raised planting beds beside what we assume is a water feature, where full of colour and full of visiting insects. Another wonderful asset to your town is the canal with its green banks and trees. Compliments to the volunteers on planting the square, rectangular and three tier planters in the town. This is a job that takes considerable amount of time and effort. Well done to all. The variety of planting used, and the range of heights gave interest to these containers. We suggest however, that trailing plants are badly needed in the three tier planters to hide the containers and give interest to the streetscape

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

With the town bypass removing a large amount of vehicular through traffic we have natural hedgerows, trees, stone walls, and green spaces which gives a great variety of habitats for insects and mammals in safety. The Grand Canal and Tullamore River pass through the town from east to west and it's good to see they are both celebrated by the town. Tullamore living river and wetland was visited. This is a wonderful site to have in your town. Do you know if the Bat Boxes in the Park have been used? Good to see that bats have been recorded in the park and along the river. We also know that you are recording the movement of otters. This will be interesting. Let us know in next year's application the results of this. Have you put out a call to those residents living in historical houses or who have outbuildings close to their houses to see if they have swifts visiting? Very often residents are aware of swifts visiting and nesting in their roofs, but don't realise that they are special and need to be counted. We love the photo of the roosting birds at the Bridge House Hotel sign. You list various events and activities which you have arranged - well done.

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

Communities struggle, unfortunately, with this category. But truthfully it's just about being aware of how we use the resources of the planet so that we cut down on our waste. We encourage Tidy Towns committees and volunteers to lead by example. We see that Offaly County Council is committed to a Climate Action Plan which we assume will be the responsibility of the Climate Action Officer. How is the conversion to LED public lighting advancing? We noted the electric vehicle charging points at the railway station. Are there many more around the town? We looked but we didn't notice any. Have you thought about creating an online/ booklet entitled 'Tullamore -where can I fix it?'. As you are a large town with skill sets available locally, we have no doubt that in your community there are those who repair items - furniture, bicycles, phones, shoes etc and indeed those who repair or remodel clothing, or perhaps reupholster seating etc. Ask around and make out a list, with names and contact details of the craftsmen and women, which will be a great benefit to the community and to your new residents. The booklet could be left in Hair Salons and Dentists' and Doctors' surgeries. We note you have clothes recycling shops. Is there any facility in Tullamore where people can bring crockery, furniture, and other household items? These to be dropped in for free and those who wish to purchase them can do so for small money. A lot of items put into landfill can be recycled in this facility.

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 have other cleaning days where the volunteers turn out in large numbers. When the community see the volunteers in their high viz jackets it focuses their minds on the volume of litter/fly tipping/ dumping that occurs nationally. We liked the 'Adopt an Area' which you have introduced so that individuals, groups, or businesses take responsibility to clean up an area on a regular basis. We looked for the dog fouling awareness stencilled signs on paths, but didn't see any. This is a great way to remind people to clean up after their dog. A good brightly painted sign on pavements in areas where dog fouling is a problem. These work much better than signs attached to poles (which clutter the streetscape). Nowadays the motto is 'Any bag, any bin'. Truthfully, we recommend the removal of the dog bag dispensers as unless they are always available they don't work. It's better that people learn to bring their own bag. Yes, you will get some who won't but most dog owners will. When we visited, there was some litter which is not uncommon in a town the size of Tullamore. Your volunteers are working hard to keep your streets and roads litter free – please commend them for their work. Again as in any large town some weed growth was noted at pavement/ wall/road junctions. Weeds give areas an unkept feel, so it is necessary to remove these on a regular basis. Trim back the growth which is encroaching on the Tullamore Town Council plaque and also on the Entente Florale Town Park Winner sign. Again like many Irish towns you have your degree of empty poles. An audit needs to be undertaken, sent to the local authority requesting that these be removed. Poles and signs detract from a streetscape so only have those that are essential.

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

Tullamore residents have contributed positively to making the town presentable to the passerby. The streets have single, two and three story houses sitting comfortably beside shops and offices. Many of these houses were freshly painted and some has colourful floral displays providing additional beauty to the streetscape. We visited quite a number of the housing estates and here too property owners or occupiers had made efforts with gardens neatly kept. Residents had a variety of shrubs and herbaceous borders while some had ornamental trees as features in their gardens. The tree lined entrance into Eiscir Meadows is quite beautiful. Compliments to those involved in the maintenance of this entrance. A few trees need to have suckers removed. The communal space at Arden Vale is beautifully maintained with trees and planting beds with a variety of pollinator, friendly flowers. Take care that the flowers don't hide the estate name signs. We see that you have the annual 'Pride of Your Place' competition which gives healthy rivalry between the estates. Nothing like a bit of friendly competition! We see you talk of 'No Mow May'…. but why not rotate this with some estates being 'No Mow May' while others are 'No Mow June' and others still 'No Mow July'. In this way, you will see a variety of wildflowers and grasses growing. We admired the pocket orchards and see that native fruit trees have been selected, with the fallen fruit being left for insects, birds and mammals. We recommend that ivy, pyracantha or other climbers be planted along blank boundary walls along entrance roads or communal green spaces in most of the housing estates, similar to that noted at Eiscir Meadows. It will create a biodiversity haven for insects, etc. Puttaghan Close and Kearney Connolly Park estate names, while quite beautiful, need to be cleaned – soapy water and a strong brush is all that's needed.

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

There are some fine tree lined entrance roads into Tullamore, including that along Charleville Castle demesne. It's wonderful that the N52 no longer passes through your main street and now those in town are there on business or for pleasure. Like many large towns road surfaces and road markings are in need of attention. Potholes, edge break up and unravelling of previously repaired road surfaces were evident throughout the town and on approach roads. Some footpaths also need attention as here too we noted unravelling. We loved the idea of Age Friendly parking bays - some needing to be repainted to make it clear that they are designated as Age Friendly. The town name signs were clean and visible at the entrances to Tullamore. Dipped kerbs exist in various areas throughout the town providing ease of access for those using mobility scooters are those pushing buggies. We admired the treatment of Charleville Roundabout with the edge neatly trimmed for safety and the wildflowers growing in abundance in the centre – simple but effective.

Concluding Remarks:

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

- Your application form is wonderful but it's WAY to detailed for the adjudication of Tidy Towns. Keep this amount of information for the Tullamore Community and enter a précised version for the competition. Remember the limit is 500 words per category.
- There are too many photos all cluttered together. Be selective and give us those which best represents your projects completed for the year of the application.
- While web links are great, you have WAY too many. We don't have time to open them all.
- We would like you to answer the 'Questions' in the Communities Involvement etc. category rather than making up you own 'headings'.
- Please select just ONE Category for a project which BEST suits the project – we found Tullamore Wetlands/ Tullamore River in 'Streetscape and Public Places' ….. definitely NOT the category for these. Shop Front /Window Displays is in 'Approach Roads Street and Lanes' – once again the incorrect category.
- Only include projects/activities which are New (completed) or Maintained. Future Projects go into you Plan e.g. your localised Biodiversity Plan is not yet completed. And there are numerous others.

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 Tullamore.