Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Birdhill - Cnocán an Éin Fhinn**	Ref:	**587**
County:	**Tipperary(North)**	Mark:	**393**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**09/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	57	59
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	55	57
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	45	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	30	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**382**	**393**

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 2026 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your application really stood out to us. It was a pleasure to read with accompanying photographs in each category, easy to follow map and a 3 Year Plan.
As you mentioned, Birdhill is a community of volunteers with over 50 for a small village which is fantastic. We owe our appreciation to everyone for the hours put in over the last year and it good to hear you continue to encourage new members to participate.
According to what you have said, you put a lot of effort into Tradfest with plenty of events from soccer and hurling matches, music and dancing, busking competitions, dancing lessons, storytelling, a dog show, games and competitions and a BBQ to end the 3-day festivities. We appreciate all the photographs of the events – it looks like a lot of fun.
After the festival, regular singing sessions kicked off and we hope the new Singing Circle develops over time.
Once again this year, the children had a lovely face to face experience with Santa in December and we are sure the Christmas Tree brings a sense of magic to the community annually.
Table Quizzes are a bit of fun and the funds are always great to have.
Organising community events to keep old traditions like the ‘Wren’ from disappearing reinforces the identity of the village while at the same time creating new ones, makes you unique and helps build the pride of residents.
These are just some of the many gatherings organised and we are pleased participation gets stronger every year.
From Spring onwards, the kerbing from one side of the village to the other was edged this year (taking 62.5 days) and we must say it looks excellent and shows great attention to detail.
The group is the backbone of the community in Birdhill and your ability to anticipate their needs and consistently deliver is truly brilliant. From all at the Tidy Towns Unit, thank you for years of exceptional service.

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

As we arrive in the village we notice three appealing businesses – The Coopers, Matt the Threshers and the Old Barracks. Situated along a busy road they create a classic, inviting streetscape and serve as a visual anchor. They offer a central meeting spot for locals and travellers alike.
As adjudicators have previously mentioned, the road is busy with traffic which creates noise and safety concerns and makes the streetscape less pedestrian friendly. As we visit on a weekday parking appears not to clutter the street frontage which is crucial for maintaining a beautiful accessible environment. The new segregated cycle and pedestrian surfaces due to commence this summer are absolutely essential and will make the space more

accessible for all.
After a coffee we set out on the nearby Literary Trail transforming sightseeing into an active experience with a walk towards the bridge.
Once back in the village, we explored the Village Park with plenty of interesting features that set it apart and make it special – the fairy council room was our favourite! The mural was stunning too.
With high visibility the Village Green is the perfect meeting point and a natural focal point to highlight local events for walkers, cyclists and visitors. Preserving the famine Pot is deeply respectful and we reflect on that dark period in Irish history and spare a thought for all those around the world who are experiencing troubled times presently.
We visited the Railway Station and the Church and both grounds are getting the attention they deserve.
Walking and Heritage Trails are hidden secrets you might overlook without the information panel.
Vibrant containers refresh many spaces and perennial planting was noted for their colour and effect in numerous locations.
Beautiful stylish furniture reflects positively on the group and gives us a reason to stay longer and enjoy the outdoors.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Great to hear your green fingered volunteers are encouraging 'Learning by doing' in the garden as it will help novices build confidence. We love to see this and as they build knowledge it will make garden maintenance more sustainable for the group.
The school Children also enjoyed some lessons and it can be paired with classroom curriculum goals to maximise the impact. An outdoor classroom has many benefits and we wish you well with funding.
Incorporating plants with a rich meaning into the Church space is a beautiful way to anchor your intentions. Rosemary, ivy and Irises have deep rooted histories making them perfect to capture a spirit of hope, faith and resilience.
The new herb and edible plants planters are also excellent plants to bring to learners as they activate the senses and everyone will gain from this outdoor activity. Thanks to all who gave their time to host these events.
Focusing on Pollinator friendly planting will enhance the local biodiversity and you have some ideas for new schemes around the village. When using begonias for colour 'mix them in' rather than block planting them as insects can find food in colourful surroundings. Mophead hydrangeas need moisture retentive soil so best suited in part shade unless you know the ground retains moisture.
The landscape never stops wanting care and attention and we applaud all the work that is happening. Remember, do not put pressure on yourselves to get it perfect – enjoy the journey, the work can be very hard at times. It looks stunning already.

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

The varied topography surrounding the village is typical of Irish countryside with pastures, valleys and waterways.
As you await you BAP funding, measures like logging invasive species and hosting walks and talks will help everyone see the landscape with 'new eyes' turning the local scenery into noticeable valued habitats.
Over twenty householders are engaging in a community conservation project, pledging their garden for pollinators which will directly reverse the decline of pollinating insects. These areas will make important pit stops for wildlife, not alone the joy of seeing wild orchids, primroses and cowslips.
We truly appreciate those who are submitting data to the National Biodiversity Centre on their flora and sharing this data from the FITT counts will allow the village to see the positive impact of your work over a number of years.
We are pleased to see the Church is now on board with 50% set aside for nature. 'Let it bee' signage is building a better understanding and will inspire many of the locals to create their own pollinator patches.
Keep us updated on any other general habitat surveys that are carried out – there are lots of species under–recorded like hares, earthworms, moths, mosses etc.

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

The groups understanding of the core concepts of sustainability is good with several practical projects which have proved to be very popular in this category.
Highlighting recycling through swap events and exchanges is excellent and will encourages members to collaborate on future environmental initiatives. Measuring progress will allow the team to drive continuous improvement and target educational efforts based on the information.
We favourably acknowledge the cookery demonstrations and recycling cup initiative.
In addition, upcycling is part and parcel of the groups activities now with items routinely repurposed for use. We particularly like the Bruscar Bucket revamp.
The new Community Freecycle Group is a low-cost way to gift unwanted items and consider a community fridge for unwanted food or unwanted pantry items.
Having an official Climate Ambassador within the group is an excellent strategy as they will guide the team with training and more practical resources. We look forward to hearing how Climate Week progressed this year.
We have noted at least eight maintenance projects in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well, you don't get a second chance to make a first impression but 'hats off' to everyone in Birdhill, the place is looking absolutely amazing. To achieve this a number of community actions like regular maintenance, litter management and landscaping were focused on in their entirety.
We cannot thank enough local businesses, Tipperary County Council, students and staff of the primary school and all your volunteers and local residents. It's wonderful to see and we are grateful for the number of hours dedicated

to achieve this result.
The Bring bank area is beautifully managed and we loved the planted containers for colour at this location.
We note your expression of interest to carry out maintenance on the roundabout and traffic islands but this will be carried out by the Council for safety reasons.
We value your collaboration with Ballina TT to keep litter at bay on the main road.
On adjudication day the town was spotless and so neat and tidy – super turnout!

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

A mix of homes breaks up the monotony of the main thoroughfare. Well-presented properties make the adjudicator feel more comfortable in the space and we feel happy to explore.
Compliments to the residents who have adopted eco-friendly practices and who assist you in your TT's work.
The village is evolving with some sites for sale and others being bought and renovated. Would the group consider a 'Welcome Pack' to make newcomers feel welcome or prepare a housewarming token with local treats like baked goods, a voucher for the café or a pollinator friendly plant for the garden.

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

We are keen on the many features that contribute to the appeal of the village and seasonal floral displays in many locations draw the eyes immediately providing a strong first impression and a cheerful ambiance.
Mature trees provide shade and vertical structure to approach roads.
Large machinery makes a great centrepiece at the roundabout. 'Cnocan an Ein Fhinn' celebrates the community's identity and sparks interest.
The water fountain naturally disrupts the sound of passing traffic and makes for a more pleasant waiting environment.
Good directional signage throughout.
We acknowledge nature friendly mowing patterns in all roads and clearing of vegetation on the Motorway Link Road. Many thanks to the staff in Tipperary County Council for assistance with maintenance.
Consider the merits of planting spring crocuses along grass verges that are cut short to support early foragers.

Concluding Remarks:

There is a real sense of passion and community spirit among residents and you take great pride in your public spaces, businesses, homes and the surrounding environment which is to be highly commended.
We applaud the local authority's investment in new road Infrastructure - it will make a huge difference to road users.
It was a pleasure to take the trip and enjoy the sights and we wish you all the best in the competition.