Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Kiltegan - Naomh Téagáin**	Ref:	**254**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**373**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**04/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	23	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	74	76
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	41	43
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	48	50
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**359**	**373**

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.” Thank you very much for your entry into this year’s competition, not to mention your continued participation since the beginning of the competition, including your overall win in 1973. You enjoy excellent relationships with a wide number of different organisations who help you with your work, from the local schools, GAA, the local CE scheme, County Council, Pobal as well as local community grounds such as Kiltegan Women’s Shed and the various Resident’s Associations. You also have good communications with your weekly ‘Focus Kiltegan’ newsletter, WhatsApp group as well as word of mouth in addition to the regular meetings that occur during most of the year, and either weekly or monthly depending on what part of the Tidy Towns cycle of activities that you are on. You are carrying out great work in relation to the water quality in your environment and community through your collaboration with LAWPRO, well done on the riparian planting that you have carried out to date, and good luck with future work in this area.

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

This was my first time to visit Kiltegan, and I was struck by how charming it was and how much it has to offer for a relatively small place. The Humewood Castle gates create a beautiful bookend to the village with its fine iron gates, fence and stone wall. Public buildings such as St. Peter’s Church, Kiltegan National School, Naomh Téagáin, and St Tiegan’s Hall all looked well.
You have some lovely old green water pumps in the village, (though I did notice some plastic zip ties around the spout of one of them, is there a reason for these or can they be removed) , there is potential to make a feature out of these and create a focal point, perhaps with some planting or a bench.
Commercial premises included The Talk of The Town which had attractive paintwork as well as nice timber signage and brass-coloured downlights, and Katie Lowe’s was also well presented, though it is a pity that there are some key premises such as the old garage that are still awaiting redevelopment or refurbishment. There were some colourful murals including motivational and inspiring to be seen at the GAA grounds, and there were also some attractive interactive poster installations such as the ‘playchimes’ and ‘Tell me the Time’ as well as games to play.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There is some very attractive landscaping to be seen in your village, and it is a really good idea to ensure that you use a mix of shrubbery and planting to ensure that there is interest all year round, as well as your judicious use of planting to highlight various points of interest in the village. I thought that the old milk churns used for decoration looked very charming and a nice nod to your agricultural heritage.

The Green at the centre of the village is very much its heart and hub and is a lovely area to spend some time with good quality benches for people to relax and enjoy some fresh air or a picnic perhaps. It is also good to note that you are being as sustainable as possible in relation to the use of planters and containers and plant into the ground where possible which also helps with minimising work in relation to watering, and you also upcycle various containers to be used in your schemes.
You have an impressive commitment in relation to the planting of trees in your community, ensuring that these include native varieties such as Blackthorn, Holly, and Rowan, and this work will continue to pay dividends over the years as these mature.

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

Your engagement with LAWPRO in order to enhance the water quality for your environment and community is admirable, and fantastic work on all the riparian planting that you have carried out to date. Have you had any baseline studies done on the water quality that you can compare to quantify the results of all your hard work and illustrate the improvements?
The engagement of some of your members with the 'Citizen Science' initiative is fantastic, and fascinating to hear about the various wildlife that have been detected in your area such as the great spotted woodpecker and kestrel. We noted that you do not use chemical weed killers on the common areas and make sure that moss is not removed from stone walls, and I also noticed the various bird boxes as I walked around the village, as well as the Planted for Wildlife signs. We applaud your commitment to the bees and ensuring that verges remain uncut to ensure that the dandelions are there to provide sustenance for them.
You are also doing good work in trying to encourage the planting of trees in the various residential estates and offering free trees (even if the offer was not taken up in some instances) and look forward to seeing the new apple trees and expansion of a dispersed orchard and additional planting in the future.

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

It is great to see that you are trying to principles of sustainability where possible, include the recycling of materials and 'upcycling' whenever possible. This has included creating planters out of old drums, using old wood off cuts for sapling supports, using cutting and plants from members gardens to add to your planting schemes such as the beautiful Hydrangeas on the green.
Good work on obtaining a grant to purchase energy efficient Christmas Tree lights to conserve energy/cost as well as reducing CO2 emissions. I also noticed the solar panels at the GAA Clubhouse. If you have not already done so you could look at the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). There is some very useful information in relation to energy efficiency and the various grants that are available - https://www.seai.ie/
Well done on your rainwater harvesting, and the collection of leaves to be used for mulching. I also spotted the water fountain installation at the GAA grounds to encourage people to refill reusable bottles to reduce the amount of one use plastic bottles.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

he village was virtually litter free on the day that I visited except for a sole coffee cup on the road, fantastic work. Overall, the village was presented to a very high standard and looked pristine.
Great work also on the litter event you had in April this year where you took a strategic approach to litter collection by having individual teams designated to the various approach roads. Not only did this collect an impressive amount of rubbish (over 200 bags) and enhance the village, but I am sure it also raised awareness of the need for everyone to play their part to keep their surroundings clean. It is a shame however to read that fly tipping is an ongoing issue, however, hopefully your social media campaign might assist in reducing this as an issue. You have a good relationship with the West Wicklow Community Employment Scheme, and praise is due for the great job that the CE workers are doing in helping you keep the village so clean and litter free

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

The residential areas were all presented to a very high standard and extremely well maintained, from the 4 estates as well as the individual premises in the village, as well as the very attractive row of houses opposite the church, with some lovely granite stonework to be seen. In addition, there are some houses with very fine architectural features, and of historic interest. There were some beautiful gardens to be seen, and I noticed that many of the gardens included plenty of pollinator friendly plants such as lavender. The work on the planting of a boarder adjoining the Green was admired as was the work done at the Hydrangea bed utilising the old forge stone, a really lovely idea.

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

The approach roads look immaculate and the entrance to your village gives a great first impression with a lovely classic black and white welcome sign along with the line of lovely mature trees as you near the beginning of Kiltegan. There are some lovely stone walls with native hedging to be seen.
Keep up the good work with your efforts to improve biodiversity and habitats in keeping with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan through ensuring there are areas of grass left unmown in certain areas.
I was sorry to read that a key member of your committee was unwell and understand the impact this may have on your work, and wish you luck in your efforts to recruit some new volunteers.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit your lovely village for the first time and to see the legacy of your long involvement with the competition and all that it has done for your environment and community.