Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Brannockstown - Baile na mBreatnach**	Ref:	**358**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**321**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**06/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	41	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	44
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**308**	**321**

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór.
Brannockstown is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2025. Thank you for your application and map. The village has a committee of five members and a number of volunteers working continuously to develop and enhance the village with different projects. Meetings are held bi-monthly in the local school and are open to all in the community. Ongoing maintenance of the village is discussed, along with new projects. There is great support for funding and advice from Kildare County Council, the school, Church and local businesses. Communication to the wider community is through social media, word of mouth and The Bridge magazine. There is good interaction with the school on various projects such as the maintenance of the school planters, Christmas lighting and last year decorating the village for Halloween. Since your involvement in the Tidy Towns competition, there has been a greater sense of pride in the community with more participation and interaction within the community. The Tidy Towns unit values your participation in the competition and you are wished well in the future.

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

Brannockstown is a picturesque village with a number of heritage buildings and more modern builds all adding their own charm to the streetscape. The village is fortunate to have such superb stone walls, forming the boundary of the village. The Church is a splendid heritage building. The school has well maintained grounds and the outdoor classroom is a great idea, which the pupils surely must appreciate. The school building looked fresh but the boundary wall could be enhanced more. The village pumps, which are also part of the village heritage, were greatly admired. The planters brought great brightness and highlighted this important feature of the village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The stone walls, mature trees and hedging of the village is complemented by the planting at various locations throughout the streetscape. The tiered containers at Harristown Estate entrance are bright and colourful, bringing great brightness to their surroundings. It is good to note that bulbs are planted to bring life to the village during the dreary days of spring. The beds along the school road of perennial pollinator plants are superb. This type of planting is greatly admired and encouraged. Well done on the solar panel irrigation system keeping the plants watered. The entrance signs are well landscaped giving a good first impression to those visiting this lovely village.

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

Working with the school on the creation of an outdoor classroom space and incorporating a biodiversity project is superb. This is educational for the community on the awareness and understanding of the importance of nature and biodiversity in the village. The planting includes bamboo and wild flowers, that will encourage pollinators to the garden and provide plenty of variety for the pupils to learn more about nature. The village has natural habitats for local species in the walls, hedging and trees that are part of the village boundary. The linear bed includes pollinator friendly plants as part of its year round planting. The erection of bird boxes, monitoring and recording their use, is a great project for children to learn about local birds and their habits. Recording your findings especially of rare breeds to Bird Watch Ireland is also good. Groups are encouraged to host walks and talks to show their appreciation for local species and habitats in their area. Too often the community are not aware of the wildlife that exists in their midst.

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

In this category groups are asked to show how they are making their area more sustainable by their actions. The irrigation system which you have carefully installed is a good example on how savings can be made. You are using a solar panel to power the pump, that pumps water from an old well to water the flower bed. This has reduced the labour involved in drawing water and also the manpower hours to carry out the work. Harvesting of rainwater by installing water butts to help water plants and other tasks is also encouraged and can be adapted by the wider community. More solar panels are being erected on businesses and private homes to help save on electricity. There is a grant that helps with this work. Walking and cycling which is good for health and wellbeing and using public transport is also encouraged. Looking at more sustainable planting by using seeds and cuttings and moving to more perennial planting are all ways of making savings. The re-turn scheme has been a good success story with less bottles being dumped and now been returned for money. The plant containers are made from recycled plastic which is also good. Do document any projects that you are undertaking in this category, such as how you showed the irrigation system and also look at how the school makes savings. If not documented projects may go unnoticed and not get the recognition they deserve.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village has a good plan in place around the control of litter and ensuring the village is kept neat and tidy. The Council helps in this area by providing a road sweeper weekly to clean the streets, which is good. Signs to combat dog fouling by encouraging dog owners to clean up after their pets are also in place. Regular litter picks are carried out by the residents. Do you hold clean up days in spring after the winter months? If you do, have you noticed a reduction in the amount of litter collected. No litter was noted in the village on day of adjudication. Do ensure all signs are cleaned and any encroaching foliage is cut back.

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

The community in Brannockstown have great pride in their village and work closely together to ensure the village is well presented. The houses are generally well painted with well-presented gardens and floral displays, brightening their facades. Grangemore Manor was admired. From your photos enclosed, celebrating events such as Christmas and Halloween is a community effort with everyone helping to decorate and brighten the streetscapes. The residents are commended for their work in this area and do continue with these events annually.

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

The approach roads to the village have entrance signs that are well landscaped and give a very good first impression to those visiting the village. Verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Trees and hedging especially on the Kilcullen approach road were admired. There is a paling on this road that could be enhanced with hedging. Stone walls were particularly admired and footpaths were good. The entrance to Harristown Estate is bright and colourful from a large array of planted containers with the large boxes at this junction, all greatly admired.

Concluding Remarks:

Brannockstown was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. The village has a unique charm of good stone walls and landscaping, that are in keeping with the surroundings. Do continue with your projects to develop and enhance the village while retaining its natural beauty. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.