Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Johnstownbridge - Baile Shean**	Ref:	**1046**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**255**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**02/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	32	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	25	28
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	25	27
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	8	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**230**	**255**

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. Johnstown Bridge is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition for 2025. Thank you for your application and map. Thank you for your superb background to the history of the village. It is important for the community to learn about your heritage and also to hopefully retain it for future generations. There is a very active committee in place and many volunteers willing to help with the general maintenance of the village and also to develop new projects. Meetings are held regularly with ongoing support from Kildare County Council, all other agencies and businesses with advice and funding. You are also fortunate to have a CE scheme that helps with the day to day maintenance of the village and surroundings. Foroige also give good assistance with many projects. Communication to the wider community is through social media, public meetings and newsletter. The main entrance road to the village has been your major project with a large area of roundabout to be maintained. You are relatively new to the competition, this being your second year to enter. It is good that you are finding your participation helpful, with an increased engagement from the community. Some Tidy Towns groups use their work meetings as social outings, which encourages and helps newcomers to the area to get involved.

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

The village has many heritage sites which will no doubt be part of your plan for the village. Putting in place a three to five-year realistic plan is helpful in keeping the group focussed on projects for each year. There is funding available to help groups put a plan together. Heritage can also be included ensuring that the heritage and history of the village and surroundings is preserved. A heritage trail with information signs together with which is now becoming popular, an app that can be downloaded on to a phone, guiding you along the trail would make a fine tourist attraction. The businesses of the village were well presented with brightly painted facades and colourful floral displays, in particular the Hamlet and Centra. The use of the old school as a resource centre is also commended. St Patricks National School and grounds were well presented. Well done to the volunteers for their continued work in maintaining Dunfierth Cemetery and Our Lady's Peace Garden and to the Men's Shed for their contribution of a seat to help those visiting. The colour of the seat is very much in keeping with the surroundings.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The entrance to the village from the roundabout has some very attractive landscaping. Planting of native trees and hedging together with pollinator friendly perennials, which include bulbs will ensure colour and interest throughout the year. Ground planting where feasible is also recommended as it helps to reduce some work and helps with

reducing watering. The planting of wildflowers along road verges or housing estate green areas, are becoming more popular with groups. The planted containers including hanging baskets and window boxes brought great colour to the buildings and the streetscape.

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

The village has many areas of natural habitats in the walls, hedges and trees that are already present in the village. The management and protection of local species and habitats is important. As suggested by last year's adjudicator you are compiling a biodiversity plan for the village and you have also erected a number of signs indicating your wildlife areas. The Blackwater is a special area of conservation. Your poem speaks for itself. The area is being reviewed as a public amenity area, with talks at an early stage. You are wished well with this project. Groups are encouraged to host walks and talks to show appreciation of local species and habitats. You were hosting such an event during Biodiversity week which is commended. Often the community are not aware of the local species that are in their midst and those events creates awareness and gets the community more involved.

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

This category is looking at how groups are making their area more sustainable by their actions. Working with the Green School initiative is encouraged as they learn many ways of saving that helps to make the area more sustainable. It is important to document all projects in this category otherwise the adjudicator will not be aware of your activities. The three main areas are water, transport and energy where groups are making savings. The solar panels that were unfortunately vandalised is one such way of saving. Walking, cycling and using transport is also encouraged. Harvesting of rainwater is also a very good way of saving. The whole area of recycling and reusing, such as the bark mulch on beds is just another superb way of saving. It is good that you have obtained a recycling centre at the GAA centre which can be used by the community. Charity shops are great for recycling and reusing. Taking cuttings and savings seeds especially from wild flowers is also good. The list goes on and groups are already completing a lot of these savings daily.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Putting a plan in place around the control and possible eradication of litter is important, such as you have done. Groups need to have the whole community helping as litter control should not be left to a few members of the community. The County Council also help with dumping blackspots by monitoring the areas, to try and help to discourage this happening. Like most groups you have an annual clean-up in Spring that creates awareness and gets people involved. Hopefully you will see a reduction in the amount of litter collected which will show that your plan is working. Having a pick up point for litter collections is also good, with litter being segregated and recycled where possible. The Green Kilometre is a good way of getting a group to take care of their area of road. Sorry to hear that you are no longer receiving trees as most County Councils give tree samplings during national tree week. Hopefully you will get some next year.

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

The housing estates visited were very impressive with good entrance signs and superb trees. It is good to see that the residents are involved with various projects such as the Christmas lights. Working with the Tidy Towns group in their planting is also commended. The houses along the approach roads and throughout the village are all well maintained with well painted facades and colourful floral displays brightening up their areas. Hopefully you will get a playground area for the village in the not too distant future. The residents are commended on the work they do in maintaining their homes to such a high standard while also helping out with various other projects to enhance the village and surroundings.

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

The Enfield roundabout is a busy entrance junction to the village. The bridge is an important part of the village boundary. Perhaps the bridge could be highlighted more. All other entrance roads have neat verges while retaining a corridor for wildlife. You have managed to secure some road resurfacing, which will hopefully continue with more work being done, as health and safety is most important for those using the roads. Traffic flow through Johnstown Bridge is high with ample parking on day of adjudication. Do ensure that all signage is cleaned and any encroaching foliage is cut back and remove and replace rusty poles such as noted across from the Church.

Concluding Remarks:

Johnstown Bridge are doing good work with various projects to develop and enhance the village. Hopefully your participation in the competition will also continue to help. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.