Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Kilcullen - Cill Chuillinn**	Ref:	**371**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**389**
Category:	**D**	Date(s):	**06/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	59	60
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	58	61
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	48	51
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	26	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	43
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**372**	**389**

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. Kilcullen is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2025. Thank you for your application and map. Kilcullen has taken part in the competition for over thirty years and have benefitted from their participation, with more improved facilities to cater for the needs of a growing population. All groups work together which is commended to achieve their goals. There is an active committee of ten and a large number of volunteers, working closely with Kildare County Council, all other agencies, sporting clubs and businesses to obtain advice and funding, to develop various projects. Festival days such as Easter or Christmas are celebrated, which highlights the work that you are doing in the community. Communication to the wider community is through social media, Bridge magazine, annual newsletter and local newspapers. It is good to note that you have reinvented your community awards which rewards various members of the community for their projects, which contributes to community enhancement. This award night was supported by the transition year students. There is also good interaction with the schools especially through the Green School initiative, helping out with various projects. You continue to work on projects to further enhance and develop the town. The main project which you hope to bring to fruition is your Design Statement for the town. A lot of effort through fund raising and consultation has gone into this project and the community look forward to its implementation.

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

The streetscape of the town has a mix of heritage and more modern buildings all helping to bring their own charm to the town. The Church is a superb heritage building and is well maintained. The heritage centre is on hand with information on other heritage sites worth a visit. Like most towns there are some vacant properties, some of which are being renovated, like the Bank of Ireland Building. Other businesses have been enhanced by murals and window displays with the Butchers window looking superb. Funding has been received under the Town and Village renewal to help develop the town. The market square is the focal part of the town where development has taken place. Market squares in most towns are places where people meet and greet and enjoy a cuppa with friends in the seating provided. To do this effectively the area needs to be pedestrianized for the safety of everyone, so hopefully this will soon happen in Kilcullen. The Hideout looked bright and welcoming with well painted facades. The welcome was also extended inside the building. Another business that impressed was the Spout with its vibrant shades of blue/green. The town is fortunate to have such superb recreational facilities all placed in close proximity, such as the playing pitches the Community Centre and playground. This area has plenty of parking and is very well maintained.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The existing stone walls, trees and hedging are complemented by the many areas of landscaping, both ground and container planted throughout the town. The town continues to build on its native tree stock, with an estimated 5000 trees planted to date, on the newly developed GAA field of dreams site. Trees and hedging also continue to be planted at other sites throughout the town. Ground planting started at the entrance signs and continued along the fairy trail, the Library Garden, Pinkeen Stream and the community centre complex to name but a few, all of which are commended. There are quite a number of container plants noted at different locations. All those containers are well maintained and require a lot of time to water. It is recommended that where feasible ground planting is better and saves on time, watering and plants. If ground planting is not suitable then containers help to brighten up an area. The number of boxes along the Convent railing could be reduced and still provide a very good display. The hedging and mature trees along the approach roads was admired. The planting is inclusive of pollinator friendly plants and a large amount of bulbs that guarantees interest in the town all year round. Any recommendations on reducing the number of containers is to help reduce your workload. St Brigid's Well has certainly been enhanced by seating, landscaping, sculpture and most important an information board on St Brigid, for those visiting, to learn the history of this important native Saint. The Camphill Community are commended on providing a nature trail river walk, to ensure all members of the community have access to such a superb interesting site, to learn about nature.

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

Kilcullen is rich in Biodiversity and it is important to manage, protect and appreciate the habitats and nature that is in our midst. Landscaping in the town continues to enhance the existing biodiversity by the planting of a large number of native trees, hedging and pollinator friendly plants. Wildflower meadows are also included with a no mow policy in place to ensure spring flowering plants can blossom. There are a number of walks, from the Valley riverside walk to the fairy walk, all provided with information boards, where the community can learn about nature. Biodiversity week is celebrated by holding a workshop for the community, to learn about the biodiversity that exists in the river Liffey. The Valley riverside park has become an important area for learning, not only for the local schools but also visitors to the area. Groups are encouraged to host walks and talks to appreciate local species and habitats, as sometimes the community are not aware of the nature that is in their midst. There is also the threat from invasive species along the river which have to be removed and monitored on a regular basis. Do keep up the good work in this category.

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

This category is about making the area more sustainable by your actions. Thankfully more groups are realising that as well as helping the environment, that money can be saved and also some of the activities are more beneficial to health and wellbeing. The re-turn scheme has proved very successful with less bottles and cans being discarded. The scheme is also being used by clubs to help raise funds with the community donating the cans and bottles. Walking, cycling and using public transport with more bus routes becoming available is increasing. The use of rainwater for watering plants and other tasks is becoming more popular. Charity shops also receive donations of unwanted items which are bought and used by other members of the community. Taking cuttings and using seeds helps to reduce on plant cost. The use of solar panels on homes and businesses as well as more electric cars noted on roads, is on the increase. Most waste companies are now supplying food waste bins which is helping to reduce on general waste. Do continue to document all projects in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town has a good plan in place around the control of litter with the community getting involved in keeping Kilcullen clean and tidy. The clean-up day in April helps to create awareness and get the community motivated, as litter control should include the wider community and not be left to a few members. Have you noticed a reduction in the amount of litter that is being collected on clean-up days? If the amount is reduced it shows your plan is working. Regular weekly litter picks are carried out with the school children, which is very helpful for your work. It can become a social event especially for new comers to the community. Dog owners are encouraged to clean up after their pets when out for walks. Some boundary walls need freshening and some bollards. The utility boxes are greatly enhanced with the different art work, especially the cow's heads. The recycling centre which is very accessible for the community was neat and tidy on day of adjudication.

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

The houses along the approach roads and throughout the streetscape have well painted facades and good landscaping. Some of the older estates have a number of mature trees and large green areas. All estates have nice entrances signs with the stones particularly admired. Green areas are well maintained and it is positive to see the estates landscaped areas include fruit trees and pollinator friendly plants in their planting. Most estates have resident's associations and there is good interaction with the Tidy Towns committee. The awards also help to reward the residents for the efforts in maintaining their areas to such a high standard. They are also commended for the help they give with other projects to improve the overall appearance of the town. The children's play area is also well maintained and situated in an excellent site for the community to access.

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

The entrance signs to the town looked fresh and clean with brightly coloured plants brightening up the surroundings, giving a good first impression to those visiting. Do ensure that low growing plants are used at signs so as not to encroach on signage. Grass verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Stone walls are very much part of the town boundary along with mature trees and hedging. New trees were planted to replace some dead trees which

is becoming more common with ash die back a problem. New areas of hedging were added, which is commended and ivy removed from stone walls to ensure their structure remains intact. A mixed variety of landscaped beds were also admired, which include bulbs that provide all year round interest and colour to the streetscape. The Bridge is an important part of the town structure and is well presented. Bollards at the bridge were clean and the floral displays on the standard poles are superb. Painting of the safety barrier on the Athy road was noted and what a difference a coat of paint can make. The Dun Ailinne Interpretive Park really impressed. Footpaths were generally good, traffic flowed well and parking was good. The painted red gates highlighted their presence which included landscaping and a seat to rest and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Concluding Remarks:

Kilcullen was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. The committee are doing very good work with various projects to develop and enhance the town and provide new facilities to cater for the needs of a growing population. Heritage and biodiversity are very important to the community which is commended. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.