Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Newbridge - Droichead Nua**	Ref:	**369**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**389**
Category:	**G**	Date(s):	**27/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	64	65
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	57	59
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	47	50
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	24	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	41	43
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	43
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**373**	**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. Newbridge is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2025. Thank you for your application. Newbridge is continuing to grow in population and as a result more improved facilities are required to meet these needs. The Tidy Towns group continue to do good work developing various projects that helps bring increased enhancement to their area. Newbridge has a strong committee helped by a large number of volunteers that meet regularly for planning. Sub groups are in place to progress various projects. There is great commitment from the community with new members especially welcome and always encouraged to come and help where they can. There is ongoing support with advice and funding from Kildare County Council, all other agencies and businesses for all projects undertaken. You are also fortunate to have CE workers to help with the daily maintenance of the town. There is also continued interaction with other community organisations, all helping each other, which is commended. Experts in various fields, such as biodiversity are engaged with on the various projects. Communication to the wider community is through social media network, parish news, local papers, radio and of course word of mouth. There is also good interaction with the schools especially the Transition Year students who do community work as part of their Gaisce award. The schools are commended on their achievements in the Green School initiative. The Tidy Towns group are also applauded on what is your prize project, the Linear Park, having been awarded Green Flag status since 2017, which is a great achievement.

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

Newbridge has a mix of heritage and more modern builds all bringing their own charm and interest to the streetscape. Similar to most towns there are a small number of businesses in the process of being sold or re-occupied, which hopefully will improve their appearance in the near future. The town is vibrant, busy and exceptionally colourful from all the floral displays noted along the streetscape and baskets adorning the railings. Container grown trees are also part of the landscaping. Trees especially, are better ground planted if possible which it is hoped for in future public realm development. Seating is also a recognisable feature, from the Town Hall to along the streetscape and park and is all well maintained. The businesses also impressed with well painted facades and colourful displays of landscaping or murals in some places, which is commended. The town is a busy town for shopping enthusiasts, which is good to see. The schools St Conleth's and St Marys and surroundings are all well presented. The Train Station was also admired on its presentation and it is where a lot of the community frequent on a daily basis. The bridges which are an important part of the town structure are highlighted with colourful floral displays. There is also public space for recreation with the Linear Park, one such location. This is a well-maintained area for all members of the community to enjoy and the committee are commended on its excellent

presentation.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The town is certainly bright and colourful with the many areas of colourful landscaping at various locations throughout the town and approach roads. This year you have introduced more perennial planted beds such as The Garda Station and Edward Street, which is applauded. There is also superb planting at the junctions at Dunnes, Buckley's Cross and at Linear Park. There are also many planted containers along the streetscape and along railings. This type of planting takes a lot of time and is a large workload for any voluntary group. Looking at more ground planting of perennials where feasible would help to reduce the workload. Perhaps look at using less containers as in some instances, less is sometimes more. There is no doubt the town is very colourful and planters are well cared for, which is applauded, but if work could be reduced a small amount then all the better.

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

The town is rich in biodiversity in the river and parks and is developed and enhanced further by the excellent planting, that has been introduced in landscaping. Linear Park which has been winning Green Flag status since 2017 is a perfect example of good management and protection of habitats and local species. This is an area of green open natural spaces, wildflower meadows, trees and of course the superb river adding to the overall biodiversity of the area. More pollinator friendly plants are included in all planting throughout the town. Grass is left unmown for all the spring flowering wild flowers to blossom. Bulbs are included in all planting to ensure all year round colour and interest for the community to enjoy. Groups are encouraged to appreciate local species and habitats by hosting walks and talks, with information on different local species delivered by an ecologist or similar qualified person. Bat boxes are erected in the Linear Park and monitored on their movements. An information evening was also held in conjunction with LAWPRO and Ballymore Eustace biodiversity group on invasive species and how best to eradicate them. Networking with other neighbouring groups with similar problems is very important.

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

This category is about making your area more sustainable by your activities. The Linear Park is a good example of managing sustainability. Everything within the park is managed as a zero waste location. Grass is mulched and no herbicide is used. Wildflower seeds are reused and stakes and tree branches are also reused, which is a perfect example of reusing and recycling. Energy, water and transport are the three main themes where great savings can be made. Thankfully more bus routes are being introduced across the countryside, leaving it easier for travellers to use public transport. Cycling with more greenways and cycle lanes in towns now available is helping to make it safer for cyclists. More needs to be done in this area. Walking is also easier with safer walking routes, such as walking tracks installed at most sporting facilities and Parks. Energy savings are also on the increase with more solar panels noticeable on homes and businesses and of course more electric cars and buses noted on our roads. Water harvesting is also more popular with water butts installed to help with watering of plants and other tasks. The built in reservoirs in your planters is also helpful with watering. The re-turn scheme has been very successful with less bottles and cans being discarded with some groups using the scheme to raise funds for their clubs. Charity shops are also good at reusing and recycling. Taking cuttings of plants and using seeds to populate is good. Most waste companies are now ensuring food waste bins are used which is helping to reduce on waste. A lot of these projects are being undertaken in Newbridge, which is commended. 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 area of litter control and general maintenance, ensuring the town remains tidy, which is an ongoing task. You are fortunate to have a number of volunteers and workers willing to help with this work. The control of litter should be a community effort and not left to a few members. Your plan starts with spring cleans which helps to create awareness and get the community motivated. Volunteers take ownership of a section of road with equipment provided by Tidy Towns to help them. Community members and businesses taking care of their own surroundings is of great help to the Tidy Towns group. Graffiti can be problem but can be overcome somewhat with murals or street art and it is certainly more attractive. Keep up the good work in this category.

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

The Tidy Towns group have very good interaction with the resident's associations, all working together to improve biodiversity. The residents are provided with biodiversity packs to plant at their estates or homes, taking ownership for their maintenance. This project has proven very successful with a lot of fruit trees included in planting. Trees are also planted at green areas throughout the town, that are cared for by the residents. Do you hold a best kept garden or estate competition? Sometimes this can help to reward residents for their efforts. All homes along the approach roads and throughout the streetscape have bright painted facades and colourful landscaping. The play area at Linear park is certainly worth a visit for everyone to see, not only the natural surroundings but also the sand, logs and boulders, all adding to the natural play activities for children. The residents are commended for the work they do in maintaining their homes to such a high standard and also helping with other projects, to help develop and enhance the town.

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

The approach roads to Newbridge have neat verges and good landscaping of trees, hedging and colourful plants, all

bringing colour and interest to their surroundings. This gives a very good first impression and welcome to those entering the town. Entrance signs are good and planted junctions were greatly admired. Road surfaces and signage are good and traffic flowed well. Parking was also good. Do ensure all encroaching foliage is cut back from all signage as signs are so important particularly for those visiting the town.

Concluding Remarks:

The town was a pleasure to visit with the many businesses busy and a great bustle everywhere. The town is also bright, colourful and welcoming. You are doing good work developing various projects to provide better facilities and enhance the overall appearance of the town. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.