Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Rathangan - Ráth Iomgháin**	Ref:	**383**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**388**
Category:	**D**	Date(s):	**02/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	61	62
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	55	58
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	28	29
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	39
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**374**	**388**

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. Rathangan is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2025. Thank you for your application, map, and copy of plan. Rathangan have an active committee and a number of volunteers who continue to engage in various projects to help enhance and develop the town, to cater for the needs of a growing population. Your work has been rewarded with a number of awards from the Tidy Towns unit, which is commended. Regular meetings are held to discuss projects, with an annual meeting to give an overview of your work during the year. Meetings are attended country wide by the members to gain knowledge and advice on new information and funding available. There is ongoing support from Kildare County Council, all other agencies and businesses, from advice, promotion and funding of your projects. Communication to the wider community is through social media and local news. Tidy Towns use branded high vis jackets when out working in the community, helping with health and safety and also promoting your work. There is ongoing interaction from the schools on different projects undertaken and how they are progressing. Talks are also given to the schools from the Tidy Towns on wildlife, such as bats life cycle and their importance in the ecosystem. You are fortunate to have your secretary who is a volunteer with Kildare Bats Group, an expert in this field available to give the talks. Scouts and Transition Year students are also available to help with various projects. The School report of various tasks undertaken is very interesting. Rathangan has been entering the competition for over forty years with your participation greatly valued by the Tidy Towns Unit. The competition has helped to create a greater sense of pride in the community with the many projects completed. These projects have helped to develop facilities and enhance the town's appearance, making it a better place for everyone.

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

The streetscape of Rathangan is a mix of heritage and more modern builds adding their own interest to the streetscape. In general, the businesses along the streetscape were brightly painted with some adding floral displays, adding softness and colour to the buildings. Some vacant buildings are in transition, either sold or in the process of re-opening for business, which is good. Heritage is very important to the community and it is important to preserve and protect our heritage so it can be passed on to future generations. The town has certainly made great efforts to highlight your heritage with a magnificent mural doing just that. This is a unique project with a theme appropriately called a "Whistle-stop tour of Rathangan". It includes images of local heritage buildings, industries and key artists. A lot of work by voluntary members of the community was undertaken to prepare, clean and paint the walls for artist James Kirwan to display his artistic talents, which is commended. The Community Centre and surroundings which incurs a lot of footfall has certainly been brought to life as a result of this project. Businesses of

the town such as Hackett's Supermarket and recently opened Centra bring great life to the town, providing much needed facilities for the community. Little Raschals, the Schools and their surroundings are well presented. It is also good to see the old School building being used as a Garda station and well presented. Tannery Park one of the superb public spaces for recreation, is an excellent space where nature can be enjoyed in natural surroundings. The canal walks are well maintained to allow easy access for walkers. The village pump is also an important part of the town heritage and greatly admired.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The natural mature landscaping of the town of trees and hedging is complemented by many areas of ground landscaping and also container planting. The planting of more pollinator friendly plants, bulbs and fruit trees in landscaping is commended. This type of planting provides interest and colour to the streetscape throughout the year. Planting at entrance signs and along approach roads was also admired, giving a very good welcome to those visiting.

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

The town is fortunate to have many areas of natural amenities in its midst. The management, protection and appreciation of local species and habitats is important. The town is doing good work in this area by working to a biodiversity plan, ensuring that all groups in the community try and identify where biodiversity can be improved. The community are encouraged to refrain from the use of herbicide which is commended. Planting of more pollinator friendly plants, native trees and hedging is encouraged. Leaving grass unmown in spring to allow spring flowering wild flowers to blossom is also done. Planting of wildflower meadows is also encouraged. The GAA and School are all adhering to the biodiversity plan with their projects. Appreciation of local species and habitats is shown by hosting walks and talks on nature, which groups are encouraged to do. Examples of these are wild flower identification talks with the national school and scouts and also bat talks and walks where bats could be detected. Other wildlife surveys have been conducted and information and sightings gathered and logged on to the Biodiversity Data Centre website. Fishing in the canal is an important pastime and is monitored for illegal fishing, with water keepers recently appointed to enforce the law. Signs in six languages have been erected on the rules of fishing. The community orchard has been in the making over a number of years and has been added to this year by a greenhouse, which has helped to produce a variety of fruits and vegetables, ensuring healthy eating for the community to enjoy.

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

Making the area more sustainable by the various activities undertaken in the community is encouraged. Rathangan encourage all groups to come and work together to sell unwanted items or homemade produce, such as jams or cakes. This process is also undertaken by the primary and secondary Schools where a uniform swap day is held with the secondary School. The Schools also organise a clothes and household items auction day. These are good examples of producing your own produce making large savings and reusing/recycling items which otherwise may have gone to landfill. Transport, energy and water are the three main areas where large savings can be made. Using public transport, walking and cycling are all encouraged both for health and safety and also helping to save on emissions. The community are becoming more aware of ways of saving electricity with businesses and private homes installing solar panels and using LED lighting. Water is also harvested by installing water butts and using the collected water to water plants and do other tasks. This method of harvesting rainwater can be done by the wider community. Flower cuttings are taken and seeds are saved and shared throughout the community. Great work is being done making the area more sustainable, by the activities of the wider community, which is commended. The Schools are also applauded for the work they do for their achievements in the Green School initiative.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village has a good plan in place on the control and hopefully eradication of litter in the area. The annual clean-up day is held in April which creates awareness and helps to motivate the community on the importance of keeping the area tidy and free of litter if possible. It is good to see the children helping with these events. Thankfully the amount of litter collected seems to be reducing which is good to see. Less bottles and cans are being dumped as a result of the re-turn scheme which has proved very successful. Getting the community involved in keeping around their own areas or stretch of road is encouraged. It helps the community to take ownership and not just leaving litter picking to a few members of the community. It is good to see that you do not encourage the use of herbicides for weed control, with the manual removal of weeds encouraged, which can be laborious and time consuming requiring a number of willing volunteers. Some groups use salt and vinegar, not sure how effective this method of weed control is but may be of help. The walks along the canal were clean, which is commended.

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

The houses along the approach roads and throughout the streetscape are generally well maintained with well painted facades and many with colourful floral displays, brightening up their surroundings. Like most towns and villages Rathangan has grown in population and continues to do so with housing developments under construction. It is good to see a development that has been derelict for a number of years being redeveloped into a prime residential area, with community landscaping areas included. St John's Convent has also been purchased and being developed into a new housing area. These two projects are greatly welcomed with a lot of negotiating and work to get to this stage. The housing estates visited are all well maintained with good entrances and well-presented green areas. More pollinator friendly plants are noted in landscaping along with native trees and hedging. The residents are commended on the work they do in presenting their homes to such a high standard

while also helping with other projects, to help develop and enhance the town and surroundings.

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

The approach roads to the town are welcoming with superb entrance signs and neat verges, while retaining a corridor for wildlife. One road that has to get a special mention is Bog Cross roundabout. A sculpture made from willow and celebrating an important relationship to turf cutting in the area over a long number of years. Local artist Beth Murphy from Willow Wonder commissioned a piece depicting two people and a donkey with crates on how turf was brought home in past times. This sculpture is certainly worth a visit to view its superb creation. Bridges are an important part of the town structure and were greatly admired on their presentation. Improvements to make the canal/river more accessible are ongoing with a new bridge in construction by waterways Ireland. This will help divert the flow of walkers and cyclists and also a new carpark space is being developed to accommodate the many visitors to the areas.

Concluding Remarks:

Rathangan was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. Great work is being done with vacant properties being developed for businesses and housing. Local amenities such as the canal and river are also being developed and enhanced. This is important for the many visitors to the area. Keep up this good work and you are wished well in the future.