

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lecanvey - Leic an Anfadh** Ref: **2232**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **285**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	29	31
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	550	271	285

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as d'iontráil a sheoladh chugainn. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta i bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhúr thionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór.

Thank you for your completed application form, map, and photos. While your map is interesting, truthfully a simple hand drawn map of the roads, buildings (as rectangles) and the location of your projects would be better and clearer for the adjudicator. Check the Tidy Towns website for examples. Your committee of five has the help of an additional twenty one volunteers when jobs need extra hands. A great number for such a small population – well done. You engage with state, semi-state, local groups and businesses which is commendable as the work to be done, in every village and town, needs collaborators for financial assistance and for advice. We visited your Facebook page and see that it hasn't been updated in recent months. You need to keep this active in order to keep the community engaged. Ask a youth to become your PRO and give him/her photos to post. It'll look good on their C.V. – PRO for Lecanvey Tidy Village. Since you first participated in the Tidy Towns competition in 2018 the community have worked together to develop the village in a sustainable way and with focus on nature, and wildlife. We're delighted to see that you won the Endeavour Award for the most improved Small Village Category in 2024.

See Concluding Remarks for additional advice on completing the Application Form and producing a map.

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

You are a dispersed rural community with a mix of vernacular single and two-storey buildings and these, with the topography of the village and its great vistas across the countryside, to the Reek behind, and out to sea in front, gives the area its character. Add to these the imposing St Patrick's RC church, high on a site above the road with its well-maintained grounds and grotto, the old convent building on the Pier Road, Lecanvey National School and the beautifully maintained T. Staunton public house to complete the architectural merit of the village. Good to read that new seating has been installed as seating encourages interconnection between members of that community who otherwise wouldn't interact. Two of these are at Lecanvey Pier and we noticed they were being used by visitors to the area. The notice board in the centre of Lecanvey is a great idea where the community and visitors can see upcoming activities. Your Community Centre behind the church was closed when we adjudicated but we read it is used by a great number of groups who meet on regular basis and also as a location for a variety of classes. Compliments to the owner of T. Staunton on its presentation – recently painted and with a pleasant display of flowers. The creepers along the concrete boundary wall are growing well. It'll take a while to cover the wall but it will be worth the wait. The pump behind the white wall looks good. It would be great to have this connected to your new public water supply so that cyclists and walkers could fill their water bottles when they're in your village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We loved the Community Garden across the road from Staunton's pub with its seats, planting beds, tree canopy, river etc. We sat for a while and enjoyed the surrounding peace. Remove the dog waste sign – it's obtrusive and possibly unnecessary. We read that spring bulbs have been planted – don't forget to take photos of these and include them in your application form next year. We suggest that you trim the growth along the river so that the river can be better seen. Along the entrance road from the east the large sloping bank of wild flowers, perennial flowers and shrubs is fantastic. It was full of butterflies and buzzing with insect life when we walked along the pathway. We could have stayed longer admiring it but time didn't allow. We recommend painting the handrail in black (or dark grey) to minimise its impact in this area. You also have another large planting area on the R335 before the Pier Road and here too seats have been provided for those who wish to sit and enjoy being surrounded by beautiful flowers. The planting beds at the pedestrian entrance to the church grounds were also admired. For an area exposed to great winds we were surprised to see so many mature trees. We admired the ones in the church/community centre forecourt. We see that you have planted some in your community garden. Don't forget to remove suckers and to check stakes and ties as these grow.

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

With dry-stone walls, hedgerows, beautiful mature trees, peatlands, the river and of course the beach area you have a great variety of habitats and food sources for insects, mammals and birds in your locality. We see you are conscious of the benefits of wildflowers for our pollinators and we encourage you to collect seeds from the wildflowers growing in your area as these have the best chance of survival. We looked but didn't see a 'biodiversity' garden at the back of the Community Centre. We did however see a mown grass area with trees and a seat. For it to be a 'biodiversity garden' you need to stop mowing the area and allow wildflowers and grasses to grow. We read that you walk around Lecanvey with an ecologist and see the flora and fauna from a previous audit that was undertaken. Hopefully the community are invited on these walks? Put the poster telling the community about these walks into the application form next year. Have you prepared an audit on the increase/decline? We noted the bat boxes and we're delighted to read that you have bat walks. What species have you heard? Do you take part in the Daubenton Bat survey? Have you thought about providing swift boxes at the church eaves? We feel it would be suitable. Perhaps your ecologist or BirdWatch Ireland could advise. Has there been any birds nesting in your bird boxes? Let us know next year of the success.

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

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It's about looking at how the community as a whole can reduce waste and save on water, energy and transport. We read that you have mulched your planting beds to reduce the need for water. We looked for a rain water harvester at the church and community centre but didn't see any. Both of these buildings have large roofs and so could support large rainwater harvesters – something for you to consider. We love that you have plants for sale near the community notice board. An honest box is made available for the buyer. You have an annual metal collection for the community. Elaborate on this in next year's submission. What kind of waste is collected, how much, where do you send it, etc? The orchard at Staunton's Pub is doing well – we take it that the produce is available for the community to take? As you have pleasant minor roads, we suggest you organise foraging walks – children and adults learning about the food that nature provides for free along our hedgerows and in our fields – mushrooms, elderflowers, elderberries, strawberries, crab apples etc. Your low-level lighting was noted as was Lecanvey Little Library.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We assume that like most Tidy Towns committees you took part in the annual An Taisce Spring Clean Days as this focuses the attention of a community on the need to be vigilant on litter, fly-tipping and weed growth. You are located on the busy R335 road along which, especially during summer months, there are considerable number of locals and tourists travelling. When we visited the centre of the village was virtually litter free so we commend the litter pick-up volunteers who keep the area so beautiful. There was some weed growth but in a dispersed rural community such as yours, this is acceptable. Good to read that the children in the school are involved in 'Walk a Mile and Pick Litter' as this not only keeps them fit and active but also develops an awareness of the need to be attentive to keeping their surroundings litter free. In addition, they help with the litter pick-up on the pier, beach and beach access road. We were surprised to see an unoccupied/derelict house along the entrance road. We assume that you have tried to make contact with the owners to no avail. Could you trim back the overgrowth and paint the railing? You might need help from May Co Co roads. We feel the new large signage 'Lecanvey Information Board' is quite intrusive in this very beautiful area and detracts from it. Signage should be discrete, kept to a minimum and ONLY used to improve an area. If you really need it we suggest the sign be repositioned along the hedge in an area of the new garden.

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

As a dispersed rural community, houses are located on individual sites surrounding by large gardens. The majority were well presented and some had been recently painted giving a brightness to the streetscape. Generally, the residents have made a positive contribution to making the village extremely pleasant and welcoming for the visitor. Unoccupancy and dereliction is minimum and we hope the issue of removing overgrowth and painting the railings can be resolved. In the immediate vicinity of the village and along the approach roads houses were also well-kept and some had very pleasant dry-stone walls as roadside boundaries. Some had neatly kept farmyards and farm

outbuildings. Here too we noted some gardens with colourful pollinator flowers, polytunnels and vegetable gardens which we were happy to see. Boundary hedges were neatly trimmed giving good visibility to the motorist. We looked over a few hedges and spotted meadows full of a variety of wildflowers and grasses – quite beautiful to look at and great for our pollinators. Maybe a source for your wildflowers seed collections?

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

The community is located along the R335, the backroad (L18331) and Thornhill. The pier road and Lecanvey Pier is also part of your dispersed village layout. We loved the photo of the roads with the great display of daffodils which are a joy to see after the long dark winter. The bank of wildflowers intermingled with shrubs and perennial flowers is a wonderful entrance to the village from the east. We walked to new path on the Louisburgh side of Lecanvey. We're assuming this will at some stage be a continuation of the Westport Greenway? In the meantime, it's a start and makes it safe for pedestrians walking to the school, church or pub. Your village signage from the east and west is clear and legible but take care to keep the shrub cut back on the sign on the east approach. We suggest that you rake the little gravel pathway at the top of the sloping bank to try to keep it weed free or alternatively just leave the grass grow and cut it.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your village ... but we have a few suggestions for 2026.

- In the Application Form please number the projects New (N1, N2, N3 etc) and M (M1, M2, M3 etc). This same numbering system to be used to indicate the locations of these projects on a map – N1, N2, N3 etc and M1, M2, M3 etc. If you wish you can colour code the various categories to make it even clearer. This is to help the adjudicators to negotiate their way around your village and see the various projects or locations of projects. Your new young PRO will help you do this.
- Insert the photos into the relevant categories rather than submitting them in a separate document. Again, your new PRO will do this for you.
- We suggest you make a Five-Year Plan for your village with topics under each category of the Tidy Towns Application Form – it needn't be long or onerous, just what you decide is possible to achieve. Add the name of one committee member to lead/advance the project and put the names of collaborators after each activity/project as you'll need help with many of the projects - financial or otherwise. Best to do this in Excel rather than Word and then every year add a column and put a X/tick to say if it has been progressed/achieved.
- All Future Projects will be in your plan. When they have been completed, they will be in your Application Form – as a NEW project.

We wish to state that this is not a criticism of your work but to explain to you that as adjudicators we rely on a clear application form and accompanying map to inform us of your projects and make our visit rewarding.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2025 competition. It was a pleasure to visit, stroll around and adjudicate Lecanvey. Keep up the excellent work.