

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Balscadden - Baile Scadán	Ref:	169
County:	Dublin	Mark:	320
Category:	A	Date(s):	27/06/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	34	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	19	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	37
TOTAL MARK	600	302	320

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

Fáilte go Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2026. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur n-iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur gceantar go dtí seo - guíonn muid gach rath oraibh in bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Balscadden is welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2026. Thank you for your application, map and plan. The village is taken care of by a committee of twelve and a large number of volunteers, who are completing great projects to develop and enhance the area. Meetings are held regularly to organise all this work and new members are very welcome to attend. It is a great way for new residents in the area to get to know their neighbours. There are ongoing support and funding from Fingal County Council, all other agencies, other groups in the area and the schools. Communication to the community on your projects is through a newsletter and it keeps people up to date on what you are doing. There is also ongoing communication through WhatsApp, Notice Board and Community Text Alert, so that the wider community are aware of what's happening. There is ongoing interaction with the schools helping each other and you are also in the process of forming a youth club, which you hope to have up and running by the end of 2026. The Community Hall is a very important building for the community, where classes are run and people meet socially. This was your major project, with some revamping completed this year. Taking part in the competition has greatly benefited the community and you look forward to your projects for the competition each year and receiving your results.

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

The Community Hall, which is an important building in the village, has been revamped with ongoing work planned to improve it more. This building is being used by the wider community, particularly the active retirement group, and it is great to see it being revamped and made more accessible for the community. The preschool 'Little Sprouts' is also housed in this area. The new paling erected has helped to enhance the area. The school was also admired, and it is definitely a welcoming building for children to attend. The vegetable patch was also admired. It is great to see the children learning from an early age on the planting of vegetables and other produce. The Church inside and outside was fresh and bright. The surrounds were also admired, with colourful planters enhancing the whole area. The graveyard too was well maintained. Balscadden Inn, is an important facility for the village for social recreation and it was very well presented. Pumps are part of our heritage, and the village is certainly maintaining them well as part of their heritage. The well features, and exercise machines were also admired.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The natural surroundings of the village of mature trees and hedging are complemented by some fine landscaping throughout. The planted containers, which include three-tier planters at the church and boxes which are enhancing

the bridge, were all admired. It is good to see that more pollinator-friendly plants are included in your landscaping. Planting of wildflowers and pollinator-friendly perennials, which include bulbs that bring all year-round colour, is encouraged. The planting of native trees, which includes fruit trees and hedging are also encouraged. It is also strongly advised that ground planting where possible is better. Containers are useful where ground planting is not feasible. Well done to Dunleer Tidy Towns on sharing their pollinator-friendly booklet with the village. This is a great guide to you in your planting. Sharing of advice and information with other groups is very important.

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

The village is rich in biodiversity, and it is how this is managed and protected that is important. Thankfully you are doing a good job in this area. You are mowing the grass less often, providing for spring flowering of plants. You are also planting native trees and bulbs as noted from your pictures. The village would be a lovely place to visit in spring with the colour from the daffodils and other bulbs. The children are helping at the school by sowing trees as part of National Tree Week. You are seeking funding to carry out a bird survey in the village. Your previous one has now lapsed after many years. This is a project that would be very welcome, particularly with the school and the entire community. The erecting of bird boxes and monitoring their usage is also a great project, to get particularly the children involved in. Hosting walks and talks to show appreciation of local species and habitats is also important, as sometimes the community are not aware of the nature that's in their midst. Well done on the conservation of the 300-year-old apple tree, an interesting feature in the village.

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

In this category groups are encouraged to make their area more sustainable by their activities. The village is certainly doing good work in this area with the holding of healthy food classes, explaining how food can be saved, and encouraging people to eat healthy. The schools through the Green School Initiative are learning more about how their area can be made more sustainable, particularly with the planting of vegetables and seeds and in the areas of energy saving and water. Transport can also be reduced with more cycling and more walking when it's safe to do so. The installation of solar panels on private houses and businesses is becoming more popular, with grants available, particularly for community buildings to install solar panels. The reusable cup is a good idea, and it reduces the number of cups being littered. The recycling scheme has become more popular with the success of the Return scheme. The Return scheme has now been used by GAA clubs and other community groups for fundraising, with the community leaving their bottles at the sites for return. Reducing the amount of grass mowed is good for biodiversity and is also saving on fuel. Do continue to document all projects in this area so that they will not go unnoticed and keep up the good work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village has a great plan in place around keeping the village clean and tidy and helping to control litter and hopefully eradicate it. There is a general clean-up day where the community turn out and all ages work together, making it a social outing as well, with refreshments in the Community Hall afterwards. An anti-litter poster competition was organised for the school by the Active Retirement Group and prizes were given for the best poster. This brought older and younger people together, which is also a very good and positive way of creating awareness. Dog walkers are encouraged to clean up after their pets. Dispensers were installed on the approach roads to accommodate this. Hopefully the amount of litter collected at clean-up days will reduce, indicating that the community are more aware not to drop litter. A bollard at the park area could be painted.

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

The houses along the approach roads into the village and throughout the village, are very well maintained. Good landscaping was also noted. The thatched house especially stands out. The heritage cottage is also a reminder of past heritage and the importance of its preservation. The residents are commended on the presentation of their homes to such a high standard and also helping with other projects throughout the village, to develop and enhance the whole area.

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

The well-presented approach roads to the village are a very good welcome for those entering. On each road there are different features that make this more attractive. The well-maintained verges are also allowing an area for wildlife. The stone bridge, the hedging and trees, together with good landscaping, all make the approach roads more beautiful. The heritage buildings of the cottages were also greatly admired, together with the Church and School. The village centre has an attractive business, which brightens the whole area. The village pumps and well features also help to brighten up their locations. You are continuing to lobby the council to improve all roads, and this is commended.

Concluding Remarks:

Balscadden was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. It shows a caring committee, improving and enhancing the area, while retaining its natural heritage and this is commended. Do keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.