

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lusk - Lusca**

Ref: **174**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **385**

Category: **E**

Date(s): **23/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55	56
Streetscape & Public Places	80	52	55
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	54	57
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	45	48
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	23	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	42
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	44
TOTAL MARK	600	367	385

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. Lusk is welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2026. Thank you for your application, your helpful map, and your action plan for the future. As always, it is a pleasure to visit this lovely town on a bright summer's day and see all the projects that are being developed to help and enhance the town. The town has a committee of six and a large number of volunteers who are involved in the various projects of the Competition. The groups meet regularly throughout the year and use WhatsApp and social media as a way of communication. Two members of the Tidy Towns are also on the Town Centre First Committee, which plays an active role in determining projects within the town. Funding has been secured and a number of projects have been outlined to commence. The results of these projects hopefully are to provide a more connected, attractive and accessible town centre and strengthen the heritage and sense of pride in the area. Communication to the wider community is through social media, local newspapers and magazine. There is also a Tidy Towns newsletter which helps to communicate all your activities and projects to the wider community. A number of workshops have been attended, to learn more about the different areas of the competition such as biodiversity, composting and many others. There is great interaction with the schools, all working closely on different projects. Taking part in the competition has helped to create a better community spirit, provides motivation and inspiration to develop and enhance the town, making it a better place to live in and visit.

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

Most towns when you enter, you always notice there is a focal point. Some maybe have the Market Square as its focal point but Lusk certainly can call The Round Tower Monument as its focal point. Over the years it's safe to say that many people have probably used this as a meeting place. It is certainly a very big tourist attraction, and it is good to see that the old Lusk streetscape, the houses in the area, are still so well maintained. The area around St. MacCullin's Church was also greatly admired. The Church grounds and the adjoining graveyard are very well maintained. The Village Green is also part of the town's history and includes the old National School, Library and Memorial, all looking resplendent with bright floral displays. It is good to see these heritage sites been so well presented and in use today. On Main St, Murray's Bar & Lounge looks bright and welcoming, so too is the streetscape, bright and colourful with superb landscaping. The town certainly has a mix of houses, from thatched houses, farmhouses and the old houses of the town, which have blended in with the new estates that have been built and have expanded the town outwards to accommodate a rising population. The hard landscaping of the town, such as the pumps, the bicycle and the plaques, are all complemented by the superb soft landscaping in various containers, from barrels to three tier planters to window boxes and hanging baskets.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The town continues to plan and grow its biodiversity through its planting. There are numerous beds of good pollinator-friendly plants in Lusk, from the entrance signs and throughout the streetscape. The three-tiered planters, window boxes, and baskets are all greatly admired. This type of planting complements the existing mature trees and hedging that can be noted on the entrance roads and throughout. You are also trying to extend this to the laneways of the town. The countryside around is rich in producing food for the community. Your new project called The Garden of Lugh Orchard will hopefully tie in with the background of the village and extend to gardens within the town. This is a very good idea. It is maintaining your heritage and ensuring it continues on in future generations.

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

As mentioned in green spaces, biodiversity is strong in Lusk, and you continue to secure funding and carry out more projects. Notably is the study of the two streams which flow into the Rogerstown Estuary SAC. This was carried out with the relevant stakeholders and this project has continued to expand following this study. A nature based restoration area is also being developed, which will showcase native planting and flood management measures as part of its development. This site is adjacent to Rathmore road. It is positive to see the Leaving Cert students helping to create environmental awareness as part of their studies. Groups are encouraged to show an appreciation of local habitats and species, and you have certainly done this, with your Lusk Biodiversity Plan, which was prepared by ecologist Fintan Kelly. There is also ongoing work being done with the monitoring of bird and bat boxes, which includes the swift conservation project, which is very important. All too often bird boxes are erected and not monitored for their activity. Groups are also encouraged to show an appreciation of local nature, and you do this by hosting educational talks and walks, as often the community are not aware of the work that's been done and of the local species and habitats that are in their midst.

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

In this section groups are encouraged to make their areas more sustainable by their activities. Thankfully more and more groups are doing this with many projects being included with their application and Lusk is no different. The three main headings where savings can be made are in water, energy and transport. Lusk have undertaken workshops in composting, resulting in eight home composting systems being distributed to different families on a pilot program for a year. At the end of this pilot other families will be given the composting systems to learn. Harvesting of rainwater is becoming very popular with the erection of water butts. This system can be adopted by the wider community. The water can then be used for watering plants and other tasks, which creates a great saving. Rainwater gardens are becoming very popular with many of them noted through various villages and towns this year. This is done in conjunction with the County Council and it has proven very successful. Many homes are now being fitted with solar panels and also the use of LED lighting is becoming more popular, which has helped to save on energy. Community buildings are receiving grants now to install solar panels to save on energy. Walking and cycling are becoming more popular and the use of public transport, of course, which saves on emissions. More cycle lanes and walking areas are being introduced to make these activities safer. Recycling and reusing are also very popular, with the return scheme, which has made recycling even more prominent. The return scheme is used by groups now as a fundraiser, with the community dropping in bottles for return to the various groups, such as the GAA, and allowing them to bring them back and collect the funds. Do continue to document all projects in this category otherwise they may go unnoticed.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Lusk Tidy Towns are doing great work in creating awareness and helping to get more people involved in the control of litter around the town. Anti-litter signs can be seen, which helps to encourage. The bins are bright and accessible and there's no reason why the wider community should not be included in all litter control, it shouldn't be left just to one or two people. Everybody should get involved. Well done on your participation in the Palmerstown Spring Clean-up Project. This is a wonderful thing to get involved in as the waterways are so important to keep free of pollution, which can happen because of dumping. Well done to the Tidy Towns and Supervalu on the provision of bags for dog walkers to ensure that they clean up after their pets. Some Graffiti was noticed on the laneway opposite the Top Shop. There is great work being done by the community of Lusk in this category.

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

It is positive to see that all residents, both from the new estates and older estates, are all working together to improve the area of Lusk. This shows the great pride by the residents in their areas, helping out with various projects. It is also positive to see pollinator planting and biodiversity corridors being developed in the estates and in private gardens throughout Lusk. This includes reduced mowing in green areas, but there is still plenty of space for play and recreation. A competition, which is unique, was organised, recognising the best maintained estate name stone and entrance signs throughout the town. This was helped by the Tidy Towns, by the distribution of paint to the estates. The residents also maintain play areas in the community to a very high standard. All residents are commended on the presentation of their homes, with well-painted facades and neat gardens, all adding greatly to the overall appearance of the streetscapes of Lusk. The Post Office roadhouses and gardens were particularly admired.

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

The approach roads to Lusk give a very good first impression as one enters. The Rathmore Road was particularly admired, which shows off its biodiversity, along its green corridor together with the footpath and planted trees. This

roadway should look very colourful during the spring months. Entrance signs were also admired, particularly the Lusk sign with the window box attached. This is a novel idea. Colourful landscaping in planters was noted that brightened up the streetscape. Laneways around Lusk are an important part of the town centre and they are also well maintained. As part of the town centre first plan there is ongoing improvement being made to the overall general streetscape, both in footpaths and roadways. Traffic flowed well and parking was not a problem. Do ensure that all foliage is cut back from all signage. Also, along footpaths ensure foliage is also cut back for health and safety.

Concluding Remarks:

Lusk was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You are working on superb biodiversity projects that will greatly enhance the town and surroundings when completed. Your heritage is also being preserved for future generations to come and is blending well into the new buildings of the town. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.