Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Annacurra - Ath an Churraigh**	Ref:	**2270**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**286**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**28/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	37	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	21	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	20	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**273**	**286**

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.”Thank you very much for your participation in this year’s competition and for including a map, your 3/5 Year Plan as well as some lovely photographs illustrating all the work that you are doing in your village. Although relatively new to the competition, you have a solid Committee of 10 with an additional 20 volunteers as well as a very active WhatsApp group of over 63 people. You are making great efforts in reaching out to those in your community including local clubs and schools as well as a coffee morning which is a great idea to meet local residents and share ideas and future plans. You also have a great deal of support from a wide range of organisations including Wicklow County Council, Pobal, local clubs etc. and have managed to get funding from schemes such as the Local Enhancement Scheme as well as the Community Award Scheme to help you with your endeavours, and the Raheeleagh Community Wind Farm Fund. Great work on the Community Centre, which is as you say yourself is the hub of the village, and hopefully this will encourage even more people to participate and volunteer.

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

The Church is a beautiful building with some fresh pale green planters, though a refresh of some of the paint on the bench and red door if possible would enhance it even more. The school grounds look well maintained with nicely painted blue railings and complementary planters, and The Holy Year Cross is looking very well. The revamped Community Centre looks very fresh and welcoming with the new paintwork and resurfacing of the car park. You have done great work on the Playground area making it safe and accessible to all children including the sensory area and furniture, and fantastic to see the pollinator friendly plants there as well.
The Saltee premises is very attractive and well presented, and we note your plans to deal with the few derelict sites that you have in the village. Your idea of a Community Biodiversity Garden is really worthwhile, and we hope that you manage to obtain funding to turn this into a reality.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

I managed to have a quick stroll through the Roddenagh Woods, a really lovely place to spend a bit of time away from the hustle and bustle and recharge the batteries, and I would love to visit here sometime when the Bluebells are in full bloom. Great work on the signage upgrade works here. The various planters around the village were spotted and all looked very well maintained, with very attractive and fresh-looking paint. Some really nice landscaping to be seen at the spot just before the GAA grounds entrance. It is great that you now have the water

butts to help you water the various planters etc. in a very sustainable manner.
Great work has been done to the entrance to your village with lovely signage, the Beech trees, as well as the work on the bus shelter and the planting surrounding it, a lovely introduction to your village.

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

You are fortunate to live in an area with a wealth of natural amenities and an abundance of flora and fauna. The Ciaran Shannon Walk in particular is a delight, and great news that the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway will include part of this trail.
The nature walks and use of this area to educate and create awareness for school children through 'Forest Classroom Days' is a wonderful idea. And it is obviously helping to foster an interest in the environment around them including the installation of bug hotels, some areas of lawn to be 'rewilded' and the participation in the Green Schools programme including Committees to guide the work of these.
I noticed some of the managed for wildlife signs as I walked through your village, and it is great to see the use of so many pollinator friendly plants and flowers to help our butterfly and bee population. Well done also on the new hedge as you enter the village which includes no less than 400 Beech trees, great work. It is commendable that you are working with LAWPRO on projects with local children and we look forward to seeing the results of these in the future, as well as the 'Spongeworks' project to look at ways to help prevent flooding, such an important endeavour with increased risks due to climate change.

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

Well done to your younger residents in St. Brigid's National School for their leadership in relation to sustainability and their long-term involvement with the Green Schools initiative. A lot of projects have been carried out including the planting of wildflower to help our pollinators, recycling and upcycling for Christmas decorations as well as 'junk' art. Other ideas that the school and community could investigate could having 'swop shops' for preloved items such as old sports gear, books, clothes etc. in addition to the uniform recycling.
Well done on obtaining the 3 new water butts to help save water for use in your landscaping and floral displays. Other things you can look at in time include the use of more energy efficient methods such as solar panels etc. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland have a wealth of information in relation to energy efficiency as well as the various grants available to both businesses and residential homeowners, and can be found at www.seai.ie.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Kudos to you and your local community in the waste collection that you have been carrying out, with up to 50 volunteers being involved in this initiative, although it is sad to hear that dumping at the side of the road is still happening in this day and age. On the day that I visited Annacurra there was no litter to be spotted so very well done on this. This does not happen by chance, and is a result of all of the hard work being done on a regular basis. This includes weeding (without the use of herbicides) sweeping footpaths, mowing, and litter picking . your 'Big Annual Clean UP' appears to be a huge success, and great to read that following the staggering amount that was collected in your first year that this is gradually reducing, showing a greater awareness of the issue and a change in habits. Great also to see that this includes all generations, with many people having their own particular 'patch' to take pride in and keep clean.

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

The Hazel Hill estate is very well maintained and cared for, with nice green spaces and trees which will only improve as they mature, and it is great to read that there is a very active residents committee and that some of these are on your Tidy Towns committee. Although you mention on your form that the common areas are kept to just grass so that children can play there, have you considered maybe keeping some areas a bit 'wild' to encourage more biodiversity?. I also spotted a small few weeds on some of the verges, but this is only a very minor quibble.
Other houses seen throughout the village also looked extremely well, and I spotted some beautiful gardens, many which had pollinator friendly plants whether by accident or design which helps our bee and butterfly population.

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

The Welcome to Annacurra sign is well presented, and there are some lovely dry stone walls as you approach the village, and all the approaches to your village are very well presented and maintained. The rebuilt stone wall at the postbox looks fantastic and creates a lovely feature in this area. In addition to aesthetic improvements, there has been a tremendous amount of work done to improve safety and ease of access. This has included good communication and cooperation with Wicklow County Council to achieve some much-needed traffic calming measures. The work around the bus shelter is a great example of practical measures being taken to improve safety and help all residents, both young and old to travel in a safe manner.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit your lovely village and to see how much that you have achieved in the short time that you have been in the competition and hope to continue to see your entry for many years to come.