Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Aughrim - Eachroim**	Ref:	**257**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**390**
Category:	**C**	Date(s):	**28/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	51	53
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	52	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	38	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	28	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	73	75
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	44
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**375**	**390**

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 entry into this year’s competition as well as including plenty of photographs of your work as well as your Three-Year Plan and map with legend, as well as marking which projects are new or maintenance and linking with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), much appreciated. It is obvious there is very strong regard for all the work that you do for your village judging by the numerous agencies, voluntary organisations as well as local businesses that support your work. There is good communications utilising a range of methods such as social media, the local newspaper as well as WhatsApp etc. The younger members of your community are well represented through the work you do with local schools on various projects to help foster a sense of community spirit and respect for the environment. These include bat walks, bulb planting education in relation to biodiversity as well as the Saturday Sack Fillers project where children along with their families play their part in keeping their village clean and litter free. It is heartening to read that your involvement with the competition since 1966 has been a very positive experience for you community and environment. Proof of the immense camaraderie and community spirit was seen in the response the severe flooding due to Storm Chandra and the heroic efforts by volunteers to support those affected by helping to provide food, shelter, warmth and a safe space, amazing work by all those involved.

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

Aughrim has many fine buildings and a very attractive streetscape enhanced with ample green space and attractive floral displays. Some of the commercial premises that looked well-presented included Pesce Grande, with a lovely area to sit outside, Anne’s Launderette, and Kunstverein. I was saddened to see that the Lawless hotel had closed and to read that a proposed sale had fallen through, hopefully this will come back into active use soon, but it is good to see that work is ongoing to preserve its appearance until this happens.
Well done on all the work done at the Pavilion Community Centre, a building that is very much at the heart of the town so fantastic to read about all the upgrades that have taken place along with your plans to increase its energy efficiency. Mason’s Well is a unique feature and was looking very neat and cared for. The street furniture is very well maintained, and there are some lovely features such as the old water pump, and we look forward to seeing the results of the Light through the Landscape: Aughrim in Glass project.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There was some beautiful landscaping at the area below the bridge using vintage farm equipment and milk churns

as part of the display. Well done to the students from the Sacred Heart National School for all the work they did in the seasonal bulb planting. This planting not only provides lovely bursts of colour at strategic points in your town but is a wonderful way of instilling a sense of pride of place as well as practical knowledge to the students. The Pavilion and Bowling Green area looked very fine on the day that I visited, though I did notice some benches that would benefit from a fresh coat of varnish or paint. Your commitment to helping our bees and butterflies includes the Glen Road Pollinator friendly flower bed, and the work that you are doing at the Millrace River Garden, along with the various planting schemes in the centre of the town, there was one particularly attractive stone bed filled with pollinator friendly lavender.

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

The Sean Linehan Walk is a lovely amenity to have on your doorstep. There was good signage giving information about the various trails to take and how long each one takes as well as reminders for people to pick up after their pups, though unfortunately I did a plastic bag that was left behind by its owner.
Sign showing the various birdlife to be found in the woodlands such as Wren's Robins, Kingfisher as well as the Long-Eared Owl. You are doing a lot of work to raise awareness of the need to protect and enhance biodiversity. These include your Bat Walk and Biodiversity event, always fascinating to hear more about these creatures, and sounds like there was a good turnout by young and old alike. Other work you are carrying out that shows your commitment to moving towards a Biodiversity led approach includes more inclusion of perennials, pollinator friendly and native planting. Other examples in the town. include the Wildflower Meadow at Balleshal Field, 'Biodiversity in Bloom' at the Sacred Heart National School through pollinator friendly flowers, the wildflower area, hatching butterflies, an
Well done to ATT, the Green Team and the Sacred Heart National School students for their St. Patrick's Day Biodiversity Float partnership, with costumes made from recycled materials, and from the photographs that you included they looked splendid.
The illustrated ceramic stone signs for the Aughrim Tree Trail were gorgeous showing the names of the various types of trees such as Crab Apple, Common Oak etc. and the Frog Life Cycle installation was greatly admired.

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

There are lots of lovely, practical projects being undertaken in this category. The 'New-to-You' thrift shop is an excellent example of a simple idea executed to a very high standard. This is the circular economy in action, avoiding many perfectly good items being sent to landfill as no longer needed by their original owner. The rag trade is one of the industries which generates a huge amount of waste in this day of 'fast fashion' so the 'Re-Thread Collective' initiative is a wonderful way of repurposing material from clothes that are unsellable and give them a new lease of life. It is a pity that I missed the Town and Country Market, a wonderful way to create a community spirit and a lively atmosphere in the village whilst promoting local producers and artisans with home grown foods, arts and crafts. Congratulations on obtaining funding from LAWPRO under the Community Water Development Fund to develop a comprehensive Blue and Green Infrastructure Assessment and Action Plan for Aughrim. When complete this will set out a practical plan to help your village become more resilient to the worst effect of climate change and introduce mitigation measures, so important especially following the disastrous effects of Storm Chandra.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

On the day that I visited Aughrim, it was practically spotless, fantastic work on this. I am sure that your 'Saturday Sack Fillers' initiative certainly helps with keeping the village clean, a wonderful way for all the family to do their bit for the area they live in and raise awareness as well as instilling a sense of pride and accountability in the younger generation. Other ongoing work that you carry out includes weeding and maintenance work as well as participating in An Taisce's National Spring Clean, and great work on the collaboration with neighbouring communities in Arklow and Avoca to ensure that the roads connecting these areas are looking their best. Not everyone is available to commit on an ongoing basis to assist you with your work, so the 'Adopt-a-Spot' initiative is a fantastic way to encourage people to take ownership of a particular area or spot that they can manage which helps create a sense of pride and responsibility in keeping that area to a high standard. Thank you also for providing feedback on issues raised by last year's adjudicator.

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

There are some lovely residential areas to be seen in Aughrim, and all were presented to a very high standard. There are some beautiful cut stone cottages to be seen, many with lovely gardens and colourful hanging baskets and planters/window boxes. Great work being done by the homeowners of Croghan View and Our Lady's Drive, the stone name sign and landscaping around here is very attractive. Not only does it look charming, but a great deal off effort has gone into ensuring pollinator friendly planting, new trees and management of green areas with enhancement of biodiversity, habitats and wildlife at the forefront of their work.
Good work being done by Rathmore Estate, and Aughrim Hall, and St Martins's Drive had a lovely stone name signs with some very attractive planting and in front of it though unfortunately one of the ferns was slightly obscuring the name of the estate, but a minor quibble, great work also being done here to be conscious of the need to support biodiversity.

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

The work that you have done to ensure that the entrance signage at the various approaches to Aughrim look their best was noticed, all looked very clean and well maintained and give a great first impression to your town.
The green Welcome to Aughrim is very attractive and encourages those who visit to make sure to keep it tidy. There

were some roadworks and traffic cones on the day that I visited, however, this did not detract from the vista as you come along the Tinakilly Bridge approach, a really good job done here on cleaning and maintaining this. Grass verges were neat and well managed; however, you are making sure to ensure that this is not at the expense of pollinators and good work on the pollinator planting project at the Rathdrum approach, and we look forward to seeing this as it matures in the future. Well done on all your work at the Rednagh approach road to enable not only aesthetic improvements but also helping with safety and accessibility. The ‘Jim’s Way Pure Mile Project’ is a great initiative, and the charming ceramic signs featuring various wildflowers were very much admired.

Concluding Remarks:

It had been quite a number of years since I last visited your lovely town, but it was a pleasure to spend some time there and enjoy the lovely streetscape and green spaces and see all the work that you are doing to improve it even more, best of luck with all your work.