Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Avoca - Abhóca**	Ref:	**250**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**358**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**03/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	20	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	72	75
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	42	43
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**345**	**358**

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 continued entry into the Tidy Towns Competition, and it is heartening to read that your impressive 30 years plus involvement has brought such positive benefits such as increased camaraderie and sense of inclusion to your village and community. Thank you also for including a map as well as your Five-Year Development Plan, though if possible a few photographs of some of your projects or work that you have done throughout the year would be a nice addition. You have a relatively modest committee; however, you can count on a veritable army of 40 volunteers to help in your ongoing work such as painting, planting, planning, weeding and litter picking. There is strong engagement with local organisations and businesses such as your local Men’s Shed, the GAA club, Scouts, as well as Wicklow County Council, Coilte and Wicklow Rural Partnership. It is great to also see the involvement of local schools and the younger members of your community. This is evidenced by St. Patrick’s National School having an inspiring number of 7 Green Flags and their involvement in sustainable initiatives.

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

There are some very attractive and historic buildings to be seen in your village, including the lovely church, Community Hall and Garda Station. The old Scoil Padraig Naofa national school building which is now being used as the Community Hall looked lovely with some nice planting to be seen here. The Old Courthouse is a striking building; however, it is in serious need of some attention, and it is great to see that you are actively engaging with Wicklow County Council to secure funding for this historic building. It might be worth asking the Council if the building qualifies for funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.
There is a really lovely mural depicting the village and the Avoca River with some seating to relax and contemplate a little, and in general the street furniture throughout the village is well maintained, though I did see one or two benches which would benefit from a fresh coat of paint to spruce them up if that were possible.
Avoca Handweavers premise and the grounds surrounding it were charming and presented to a very high standard, and other commercial properties that looked well included Hendley’s and Fitzgeralds.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The landscaping at the Church grounds were tasteful and complemented the Greystone and colourful bunting, and the Grotto area was immaculate
Plenty of mature trees to be seen throughout your village which with the green providing a nice contrast to the lovely grey stone walls to be seen

The mural depicting the village was charming and there was a lovely area here with comfortable benches to sit a while and relax or have a chat
Some very nice hard and soft landscaping to be seen in front of your Community Hall (old National School) with nice stone planters and a smooth gradient to make it accessible for wheelchair users/prams etc.
As mentioned previously, the Avoca Handweavers premises looked beautiful with excellent landscaping to be seen here.
The planters, both the large wooden ones and the smaller circular ones seen throughout the village added a lovely splash of colour and were overflowing with flowers. Some nice landscaping also to be seen at the stone station road name sign.

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

The completion of the Avoca Wastewater Treatment Plant due for completion later this year should help improve the water quality in the area and help also with the quality of habitats and biodiversity. Will there be any monitoring of the effects of the Plant that you are aware of, or have there been any baseline studies done that you will be able to compare against. It may be worth having a discussion with the County Council/LAWPRO about this.

You are blessed to be in an area with an abundance of wildlife and have good signage illustrating what can be seen in the area such as Pine Martins, Buzzards, Deer and Red Squirrels etc. and I liked that you have a walk named after the Red Kite which was successfully reintroduced some years ago into Ireland. You are making a lot of effort to promote biodiversity, including the bat survey that you commissioned, the introduction of bat boxes in woodland areas, as well as but hotels to help our insects and pollinators. There is also very good signage showing the 'Slí na Sláinte' walking trails.

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

t is very laudable to see that sustainability and the reduction of waste is one of your core principles, one of your initiatives being the first village in Ireland to eradicate litter bins through the adoption of a 'leave no trace' approach whereby people are asked to bring home all their waste with them. Other ways you include to promote sustainability and the circular economy is through saving seeds and bulbs for replanting as well as ensuring to use pollinator friendly plants in your schemes. You ensure that waste is segregated for recycling and it is great to see that local businesses are involved in this and even accept the return of packaging from visitors for recycling or disposal.
Some ideas you could look into in this category would be having 'swop shops' for pre loved items such as old sports gear, books, clothes etc. or a little free book swop library where people can leave a book they no longer want and take one they have yet to read. Also you could engage with local cafes and restaurants about encouraging the use of 'keep cups' or refilling water bottles to avoid the use of single plastic ones which often end up in landfill.
There is also some very useful information in relation to sustainable issues, in particular on renewable energy and grants to be found on the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland https://www.seai.ie/

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter management is excellent in your village, which was practically litter free on the day that I visited, no doubt due to your diligence in this area. Not only do you do weekly litter picks along the main approach roads, but also regular early morning picks in addition to your litter bin free policy which encourages recycling and individual responsibility for waste.
Well done to all in Avoca National School for the Picker Pals initiative, not only helping to keep your environment clean but also helping instil a sense of civic pride and awareness in how their actions can impact on the environment around them for better or worse. Congratulations on your recognition by the Pure Miles project for your certificate of Recognition for your commitment to having approach roads that are free of litter. Your No Poster campaign helps keep the streetscape look less cluttered and you also participate in the annual Spring Clean and work with The Pure Project who help with rubbish retrieved from illegal dumping to make sure this is dealt with in an appropriate manner.

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

he Millmount Meadows estate had a beautiful entrance, with the Granite wall as you enter the state with a gorgeous pop of colour provided by the pink roses as well as some very nice tree planting (one tiny quibble some of the plastic around the trees was peeking through and would benefit from some extra gravel). Avoca Courts looked very smart as did Woodview Park, and the community garden, and it is noted that you are making sure to include pollinator friendly plants within green areas of residential estates and are conscious of the need to encourage biodiversity. The Apple trees were also noticed in some estates a lovely way to help with biodiversity and raise awareness, as well as add a focal point.

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

The approach to your village is very attractive with some beautiful dry-stone walls to be seen as you approach and throughout the village, as well as some lovely mature trees. The work you are doing to keep the entrance to Avoca pristine and litter free is working, with not a bit of litter to be seen as I neared the centre of the village. You also make sure to follow 'No Mow May' with some 'wild' verges left uncut to support our pollinating bee, butterflies and other insects. Signage throughout the village was overall well maintained (though some wear and tear evident on the road at the old stone bridge) and clean with some very good information signs to be seen showcasing both the built and natural environment. There are some lovely walking trails to be enjoyed and you have provided some very good signage highlighting these as well.

Concluding Remarks:

It is always a pleasure to spend some time in your beautiful village and to see first hand all the great work that you are carrying out, great work!.