Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Baltinglass - Bealach Conglais**	Ref:	**263**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**327**
Category:	**D**	Date(s):	**07/06/2026**

	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	37	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	39	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	21	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	41
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**314**	**327**

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 and for including your 3 Year Plan along with map and legend as well as some photographs of your work in progress, much appreciated. For quite a large town you seem to have quite a small (but dedicated) number of people both on your committee and available to help with your work. Have you considered a ‘recruitment campaign’ to try and get additional volunteers to help, acknowledging that your have made it your goal in the last year to increase your community involvement and engagement which is a great step towards this. You communicate through a variety of different media including local newsletters and papers, social media such as Facebook and Instagram etc. It is great to see that you have strong engagement with the local schools who are all active and involved in various TidyTowns activities. You have only been participating in the competition since 2021, but have been making great strides in that time, and great to read that it has been a vehicle for improving community links.

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

Baltinglass is a busy town with a wide mixture of architectural styles and types of premises. The Bright Paint Colours Scheme is a great initiative to incentivise property owners to spruce up their buildings, and good to see you have had some uptake on this scheme. The annual Sustainable Window Display competition is a great way to encourage businesses to be more creative in their displays, and is a nice change from the homogenous and often bland types of window presentations often seen nowadays.
Have you considered approaching business owners, perhaps through a local chamber of commerce in relation to a unified approach to colours or presentation of premises?
The development of a Heritage Trail in the town is a fantastic idea, and we note that this project is in conjunction with the West Wicklow Historical Society and we very much look forward to seeing your progress on this in due course.
Some of the public buildings that were presented to a high standard included the public Library which had some colourful planters in front of it, and nice to see the plaque dedicated to the memory of Thom McGinty, aka ‘The Diceman’
There was good information signage showing the various places of interest and history of the town.
I loved seeing all the many murals as I walked around the town, particularly the one showing the old steam train, I also loved spotting the painted electrical boxes such as the Poppy one.
Commercial premises that caught the eye included Patterson’s Butchers, Baltinglass Pharmacy and Germaines, which had some colourful bunting outside.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Weir Park provides a wonderful amenity for all members of your community within a short stroll of the centre of the town. There were many people of all ages enjoying this area on the day that I visited, with people walking, reading and just enjoying a space to relax away from the hustle and bustle.it is being well maintained and good work on organising river clean ups in partnership with the Kayaking club as well as the painting of picnic benches (which looked very smart) to ensure that the park is looking its best.
Good job also at Baltinglass Town Park, for your work on keeping this looking so well with your litter picking initiatives, and for advocating for a looped walk and great that there have been a number of new facilities provided by Wicklow County Council such as the playground, new paths, basketball court as well as a skate ramp, something for everyone!
It is a pity that there have been some invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Hogweed found in these areas, but great to see that this has been taken in hand. As mentioned elsewhere you are making a great effort to include more perennials and pollinator friendly planting in your schemes and congratulations on your 1st prize win for landscaping at the Wicklow County

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

You are taking very positive steps in this category which includes the engagement of a biodiversity expert as well as your 3-year plan with a focus on the use of perennials and pollinator friendly planting when possible. You are fortunate in that Baltinglass is situated in an area with a wealth of woodlands and beautiful countryside on your doorstep along with the rolling Wicklow Hills. You are to be commended for your endeavours to increase the numbers of the Swift population in your town, (with assistance from Birdwatch Ireland) which have unfortunately dropped by 40%, with the installation of several nesting boxes strategically placed. There have been other towns and villages who have seen increase in numbers in recent years with the installation of Swift boxes, so hopefully this will be the case here, and we note that you have also installed over 70 boxes as part of the Wicklow Barn Owl Project in addition to your hedgehog homes.
You are doing great work with your pollinator friendly planting in the centre of the town, and good work on the new wildflower meadows. It is encouraging to see commercial entities also getting involved, with great work being done through the Baltinglass Golf Club Biodiversity Programme which is concentrating on supporting diverse habitats for local wildlife, developing wildflower and fruit areas as well as planting an impressive 3,000 native trees as part of their actions.

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

You are really embracing the ethos of sustainability and the circular economy with some lovely events and ideas in this category. The annual wicked Woods Halloween event sounds such fun, with a biodiversity scavenger hunt collecting natural items found in the Lord's Wood to make magic wands to break the witch's spell, along with a pumpkin carving competition (with remains of pumpkins used as pig feed). The Ukrainian/International Hub has classes learning how to repurpose and recycle along with workshops involving crafts, using saved materials, seed sowing etc. It is great to read that there is strong support from local businesses and that come Christmas time they focus on using sustainable Christmas decorations and encouraging shop local which reduces air miles and carbon emissions. At another social event, the St. Patrick's Day parade, this was used as an opportunity to raise awareness with Baltinglass Tidy Towns having a natures themed float in conjunction with members of the Ukrainian community, and won a prize no less, well done!
Where possible you repair and upcycle rather than buy new, such as the colourful recycled benches, you also have a community composter, employ rainwater harvesting with your water butts, and promote the use of 'keep cups" and reusable bags in conjunction with local businesses, and also have art classes focussing on recycled material, fantastic work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Despite Baltinglass being a very busy town with a lot of traffic throughput, there was good litter control so well done on this. I am sure this has been achieved through all your hard work with weekly clean-ups, weeding litter picking, washing murals etc.
Good work also on your involvement with the Annual Big Spring Clean and for involving all the residential areas, and from the photographs you provided it looks like it was a very productive day, are you able to segregate any of the items collected to see if it is possible for anything to be recycled?
The involvement of the local Green School is to be commended, the 'Picker Pal's' program is a great way to involve the whole family in taking pride in the place that they live and keeping their own area clean and instilling a sense of civic pride and responsibility. Likewise, the 'Pure Mile' scheme is a wonderful initiative that helps connect communities to look after a certain mile or stretch of road to keep it clean and litter free as well as learn more about the natural environment in their local area. There is generally good maintenance of street furniture, poles, planters etc. in the town centre, but it can be a useful exercise to do an audit of these from time to time to assess any visual clutter and see if there are any items that no longer serve a purpose.

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

There is a mix of residential areas in Baltinglass, and overall, the standard of presentation was very good, with some lovely gardens to be seen, many of which include pollinator friendly plants in their schemes. Some of the estates visited included Ardglass, Deerpark, and Rathcoran and all looked well maintained. Great work by the Parkmore residents on using native plants and pollinators on their roadside planting with advice from the

Environment Officer in Wicklow County Council.
The" Orchards in Estates Initiative" is a wonderful way to not only enhance the visual amenity of green areas near housing estates but also help our habitats and biodiversity. The donation that you received included pear, plum and apple trees, and well done to you and the residents in planting and maintaining these. It is good to see that a lot of estates are not over mowing and moving towards more sustainable ways of keeping their areas neat and tidy whilst also allowing some 'wild' areas.
There is good engagement with residential areas, and your letter to those living in the area letting them know of your work and a gentle reminder for them to play their part, and perhaps also become a volunteer! Some towns and villages have some light-hearted competition for best estate, most pollinator friendly garden etc. perhaps that is an idea that you could consider at some stage in the future?

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

The 'Pure Miles' project and the great work that is achieving has been mentioned earlier, and the decision to install notice boards along the various approach roads to remind those travelling in the vicinity to keep the area clean is to be commended. The various murals to be seen as you approach the town are fantastic, a really nice way to brighten up the space as well as highlight the history of the town or educate such as with the biodiversity mural.
Good work being done on the maintenance of the verges on the approach to the town and pruning of the Dogwood hedge. You also make sure to adhere to the 'NoMow policy to help our pollinators find sustenance in early spring from dandelions etc.
The signage as you approach and within the town was generally of a high standard, and there were some lovely stone walls to be seen on the approach. The majority of street furniture was well maintained and smart looking.

Concluding Remarks:

I really enjoyed my visit to Baltinglass and seeing all that your town has to offer and particularly enjoyed seeing all the colourful murals. You are making good progress in the competition, and we wish you all the best with your future projects.