

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bray - Bré**

Ref: **256**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **404**

Category: **H**

Date(s): **24/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	60	62
Streetscape & Public Places	80	53	55
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	56
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	43	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	30	33
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	44	46
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	43
TOTAL MARK	600	385	404

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 a map with legend, along with your 5 Year Plan as well as plenty of photographs of your work and volunteers in action, much appreciated. Bray is a large and busy town with a lot of ground to cover, however, in addition to your 12 committee members you have a vast number of people you can call on to volunteer with nearly 400 people on your mailing list and 60 new volunteers in the past year alone, fantastic! And it is heartening to read that you strive for inclusivity and count volunteers of all nationalities and age groups among, and welcome all no matter how much (or little) time that they can contribute, after all it is better to have many hands all doing a bit and spreading the burden than a small few carrying it all. Thank you for including the photographs of the St. Patrick's Day parade where you put this ethos into practice with your colourful input into the parade celebrating themes such as cultural diversity, community spirit and heritage. You have established strong connections and support from a very wide range of statutory as well as voluntary bodies and organisations throughout the area who obviously all value the great work that you are doing to help improve the town for all those that work, live and visit. You have good communications with the use of social media, information campaigns, website and local newspapers, as well as ideas such as the QR code at the St. Patrick's Day parade where people could find out more information about what you do and hopefully entice more people to volunteer.

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

Bray has a vibrant streetscape and an interesting mix of modern properties along with some fine heritage buildings with interesting architectural features.

Some of the public buildings that are of note include the old Post Office building, the Mermaid Arts Centre, the modern Primary Care Centre, the Methodist Church, the Loreto Secondary School and Saint' Patrick's, and of course the striking bandstand along the promenade.

Most commercial premises are well maintained, and some of those that caught the eye included Robert A Boland Goldsmiths and the adjacent Travel Boutique, Molloy's Coffee Shop, Pulling Loops, and Koi and Lings Restaurant to name but a few. The Royal Hotel building has long been a landmark building and there is great work here in managing the area in front of here to ensure it is clean and litter free and the flower beds here are a welcome addition. It is a shame to see the Old Courthouse in its current condition, but hopefully some funding will become available to bring the building back to its former glory.

The hanging baskets on the main street add a gorgeous flourish of colour as do the various planters to be seen throughout the town. Bray Tidy Towns also doing valiant work in maintaining street furniture such as benches, bollards, footpaths, the green junction boxes and signs etc. to keep them looking well.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Although an urban centre with a large population, Bray is blessed to have plenty of areas of amenity on its doorstep, with both the sea and Bray Head to enjoy along with the various parks and green spaces within the town itself. The People's Park is a fantastic resource and was being enjoyed by all ages when I was there, and good work on the planting of pollinator friendly bulbs here as well as your work to remove some invasive plants. Similarly, the linear park to the Harbour is an attractive place to take a stroll, particularly when the thousands of spring bulbs are in full flower. Fantastic work has been done to transform Albert Walk from a place full of litter to its current glory and it is good to see that there is involvement by local businesses to look after the areas in front of their own premises. You maintain a large number of planters with 25 along the seafront alone, though I was saddened to read that you have had to adjust some of the plants you use in the schemes to avoid theft of mature plants.

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

You have a lot happening in this category including the implementation of some of the recommendations of your Biodiversity Action Plan. The work that has been done at Elgin Wood is most impressive. In partnership with the Residents Association, you have tackled the illegal dumping and green waste here to help the many trees such as Elder, Alder, Holly and Hawthorn thrive and not be choked by the accumulation of waste in this area. There was also the issue of several invasive species that needed to be removed to make way for other plants to survive, such as the 32 trees that you have since planted, and good work on the installation of the dead hedge compost heap constructed by the Resident's Association.

There is a lot of work also being done in raising awareness along with education and training to

The 'Wildflower of the Week' campaign is a simple but very effective idea to learn about the blooms that we see all the time and yet often do not even know their name or anything about them.

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

Well done on obtaining funding to prepare an Energy Master Plan (EMP), a significant step on the way to becoming a Sustainable Energy Community and improving sustainability and doing your bit for climate change in reducing energy inefficiencies. You already have many projects on hand that show your commitment to this area as well as the circular economy. In addition to recycling bottles and canisters, you have expanded your leaf mould composting, propagate plants from cuttings and growing from seed, and try to 'green' your activities wherever possible by reducing paper use, the use of bicycle as a mode of transport by your graffiti volunteer as well as using 'keep cups' for refreshments. Other contributions towards the circular economy include Halloween costume and Christmas jumper swap shops, the 'junk couture' night by the Loreto School students as well as the many charity shops to be seen in the town. Good work also by Loreto School on hosting a water conservation course and the application of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) in real life and how our actions and choices can impact water quality for better or worse. Newcourt School are also to be praised for the stand-alone rainwater capture reservoir which they use in their pollinator friendly garden, fantastic work.

Congratulations also to Bray Golf Club on winning the Sustainable Tourism/Recreation Award at the County Wicklow Sustainable Development Awards for their work on managing their property with biodiversity at the forefront.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Despite being a very large and busy town, there was minimal litter to be seen on the day that I visited, so great work on this, especially as there were many people out and about, especially on the promenade as it was a particularly sunny day. You and your volunteers put a lot of effort into this category with regular litter picks as well as doing your best to tackle issues such as illegal dumping, litter blackspots and graffiti. There is also a lot of work being done on maintenance and cleaning of signage, street furniture, the green junction boxes as well as your dedicated efforts on tackling graffiti in the town, and we note all the hard work at the blackspot at Rivervale. Where there is repeat graffiti on shutters and roller blinds would it be possible to talk to the business owners or maybe the local chamber of commerce to see if they could investigate alternatives as not only do these often attract graffiti, they can be unsightly and detract from the visual amenity of an area. Your work also extends down to the promenade and sea area, with maintenance on the mooring bollards and the old anchor as well as your involvement with the Big Beach Clean. Your work with local schools is also to be applauded with regular volunteers following your calls for action and includes students from Loreto and Presentation College as well as An Gaisce pupils.

The work that you are carrying out has been recognised in the findings of IBAL reports as well as the results of the Wicklow County Council Tidy Towns Awards where Bray Main Street was awarded First prize, congratulations, it is well deserved.

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

Bray is a large urban centre with a wide variety of residential areas and house types from modern housing estates and apartments to some very fine 3 storey town houses to cottages. I walked around a large area of Bray and found that most houses were very well maintained, many with beautiful gardens. It is fantastic to read that there is so much collaboration between Bray Tidy Towns and residents, and you are building on this engagement to further your work and linkages in the town.

A lot of housing areas are becoming increasingly committed to helping habitats and providing pollinator friendly planting, and adhere to the 'Don't Mow, let it grow' philosophy and allowing 'wild' areas in their green spaces or making way for wildflower meadows. An example of this is the Clover Hill estate which have created a pollinator

garden in the common area and well done to the residents of Glenwood estate who won 1st place in the Water category in Wicklow County Council's Estates and Sustainable Development Awards for their work in improving water quality and biodiversity. Congratulations also to Elgin Wood for winning first place for the Biodiversity Award in the same competition for the work done with Bray Tidy Towns on the wooded area at the entrance to their estate. Although I have visited Bray many times over the years I was never aware before of the existence of Sidminton Park, a wonderful oasis of calm away from the hustle and bustle which was very clean and litter free with a large pollinator bed and good work on your collaboration with Loreto Bray to install a little library here.

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

There are several approach roads and entrances into Bray, and these were well presented and litter free, no doubt due to the ongoing work carried out by volunteers including targeting specific areas if needed due to illegal dumping and individuals deciding to 'adopt a spot' and take ownership of looking after that place. Signage is generally of very good quality, and the new noticeboards at strategic locations such as the Seafront, Quinsboro Road and Fran O'Toole bridge were spotted and looked very smart, and it is good to see that some of these were bilingual. It is such a shame to see that there are ongoing issues with graffiti in the town, but you are tackling this to the best of your abilities.

There has been great work carried out at the Springfield meridian, with some beautiful planting, and we are glad to read that safety is paramount when carrying out work in this area. The large planters at key entrance points to the town looked splendid and good to see that you have included some plants such as lavender and Mascari that are good for pollinators as well as other flowers chosen for their colour and year-round appeal. There are no less than six roundabouts as you enter Bray, and these were all well maintained and the resurfacing of the roundabout on the main Bray to Greystones noted. The roundabouts must look splendid in Spring when all of the spring bulbs are in full bloom and create a strong first impression to the town.

Concluding Remarks:

Bray is a bustling busy town with many aspects to it from the historic buildings, hidden green areas and parks to its seafront promenade and Bray Head. It was a pleasure to visit and see all the work that you have carried out and to read about all the exciting plans you have for the future, and we wish you every success with these.