Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Coolboy - Cúl Buí**	Ref:	**1986**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**306**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**04/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**306**

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 you entry into this year’s competition and providing us with you 3-5 Year Development Plan. For a relatively small village you have a very healthy number of up to 20 volunteers in addition to your committee. There is strong engagement with a wide variety of other organisations such as Wicklow County Council and the LAWPRO Programme as well as your local schools and community. Well done to the national school in obtaining funding from the Wicklow County Council Environmental Awards Scheme. You have good community engagement and are actively looking to increase participation from new members of your community as well as younger residents. The inaugural Coolboy Community Day sounded like the perfect event to introduce your work to those who live and work in the area and get them involved as well as forging stronger connections to those already involved.

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

Coolboy is a very picturesque village in a lovely setting amongst the green Wicklow hill, with some beautiful dry-stone walls and some very attractive houses set around the village green.
A lot of hard work is going into the maintenance of all the planting and floral displays to be seen in the village along with the village green and furniture such as the lovely picnic tables and benches. We also note your efforts to improve the footpaths in your village and are currently engaging with Wicklow County Council and hope that you soon have a positive resolution to this.
I was glad to read on your entry form that you are focussing a lot more on perennials and pollinator friendly planting in your landscaping and floral displays in order to provide sustenance for our bees, butterflies and other insects. We note that you have taken guidance from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (https://pollinators.ie/) a great source of information and inspiration on what to plant and where.
The Little Moon Bar looked very striking with the whimsical shutters with half moon faces on them and nice planters.
Along with the larger old water pump which has been landscaped, there was a lovely old black water pump along the main street, and I think this provides a focal point for doing something here to make it even more of a feature, maybe some planting around it or a bench nearby.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There was some excellent landscaping to be seen in your village, and a lot of hard work has gone into the maintenance of the many flower beds and other floral presentations to be seen, through planting, pruning, weeding

and cleaning etc. and is a credit to your community. Your commitment to sustainable planting and biodiversity is noted with the inclusion of pollinator friendly plants such as Lavender and Alium, along with the new native apple trees noted, as is your 'No Mow' policy and leaving designated areas 'wild' to encourage wildflowers to provide habitats for insect, bugs and other small creatures and help with biodiversity.
The picnic area with the benches in a lovely fresh green colour was excellent with the traditional black water pump nicely complemented by the vibrant flowers surrounding it.
The tree and landscaping inf front of Coolboy Handball and Sports Centre was very attractive as was the landscaping with bench to rest near the old black pot cauldron with the barrel planter, great work done on the improvements around the Mill Bridge area and the use of the old water pipes for flowers is a very clever way of reusing these and providing a splash of colour to these areas.

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

All of your work embraces the need for biodiversity and respect for nature with a lot of work being done in this area help our habitats and pollinators. Throughout your planting and landscaping displays you are conscious to use native varieties when possible as well as pollinator friendly flowers such as Lavender, Allium and Verbena, as well as the reduction in the amount of mowing done in the village.
I spotted the Barn Owl boxes, well done on these, have you carried out any surveys to see how successful they have been? You have also installed the lovely fairy garden as well as a bee hotel which helps our pollinators such as bees and other insects to find shelter and food, a fantastic way to increase biodiversity as well as create awareness, in particularly amongst the younger members of your community, we also noticed the 'Wild Patch' which was marked so that passers by are made aware that this is intentional and has a purpose, again raising consciousness of the need for less 'cultivated' areas to thrive.
Your continued work with organisations such as LAWPRO is laudable to help improve water quality and biodiversity which benefits both the environment and community alike. I also had a look at your Facebook Page, and a lot of efforts being made to share your knowledge on a wide variety of issues in relation to pollinator friendly planting, biodiversity, and environmentally sound gardening great work!.

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

Well done on the measures you are taking in this category. You are focussing on practical ways to be more sustainable and utilising 'reduce, reuse and recycle' principles. This has included maintaining and repairing where you can rather than repurchasing items such as planters, flower boxes, benches etc. I also spotted the very clever 'flower poles' where you are using the drainage pipes for flowers creating a colourful sustainable display. I had a look at your Facebook page and saw a lot of information and awareness raising on topics such as how to avoid food waste, the Sustainable Development Goals amongst other topics. You are also reducing mowing to help habitats and increase biodiversity, as well as carrying out planting that supports these such as lavender, Allium and Verbena as well as other pollinator friendly planting. Water quality is also very important for habitats, and we note that you have strong engagement with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), and we wish you luck with your future initiatives in relation to this and hopefully also obtain funding. In relation to energy efficiency there is some very useful information, including information on grants available to private residences and businesses on the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland https://www.seai.ie/

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your village was practically litter free on the day that I visited, great work. However, this does not happen by chance, and due to the ongoing diligence and work by you and your volunteers. This includes your weekly litter picks (more frequently when needed) along with general maintenance such as cleaning, weeding and tidying, and good to read that this also includes the younger residents who also do their bit to keep your village clean, and as part of your work you also know the value of raising awareness, and promote anti-litter education amongst them.
It is great to read that local businesses also help by maintaining the areas around their own premises to keep them looking their best.
Do you participate in the An Taisce Annual Spring Clean? if not, perhaps this is something you could consider.

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

There are some absolutely charming cottages to be seen in your village, the majority with beautiful gardens and look very well cared for.
Some of the estates visited included Woodview Heights which had a nice name sign with planting around it that would look better with a clean if possible. Coolattin view also looked well and Stoney Batter also looked very well maintained with very neatly mowed grass and nice low stone edging, though make sure if possible to include some 'wilder' areas to encourage our pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

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

The approach to Coolboy brings you through a canopy of mature trees and hedging with lovely stone walls to be seen throughout the village. The classic black and white entrance sign looked very clean and well maintained, but perhaps a planter underneath may add a splash of colour and interest here. Obviously a lot of work being done by volunteers to ensure a positive first impression through all of the weeding, cleaning, tidying and washing being carried out, keep up the good work.

Concluding Remarks:

I really enjoyed my visit to your charming village and seeing the results of all your hard work and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.