Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Dunlavin - Dún Luáin**	Ref:	**517**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**328**
Category:	**C**	Date(s):	**07/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	28	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	21	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	41
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**314**	**328**

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 providing us with a map as well as your 3 Year Plan which is greatly appreciated. Along with your 9 committee members you can count on the support of an additional 20 volunteers, and it is good to see that you are actively engaging with the newer residents of your community to form Resident’s Committee so that they can get involved in the enhancement of the area in which they live and to meet some of their new neighbours. You also enjoy the support of a wide variety of statutory organisations as well as local clubs, community groups and businesses. You are also conscious of the importance of engaging the younger members of your village and engage with your local schools and are in the process of trying to establish a Junior Tidy Towns.

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

Dunlavin is a town rich with history as well as some very striking buildings. And the Heritage Trail, and the lovely green signs help both visitor and tourist alike to learn something about this heritage and the signage is both beautiful and full of information, and well done on making sure that Irish is incorporated into your signage, fantastic work. Some of the buildings that particularly stood out is the lovely Market House and Market Square as well as the Town Park. The St. Nicholas of Myra Roman Catholic Church was well maintained with good information signage as part of the Heritage Trail, and the Church of Ireland building is most attractive. The Garda Station building looked very attractive and fresh-looking paintwork, as did the library. There was unfortunately some vacant and derelict buildings to be seen, but we note that you engage with property owners where possible to help improve the visual appearance of these when you can. Some of the commercial premises which caught the eye included The Fox in the Bunditch, and the Pumphouse had some really lovely landscaping outside it, well done on all the work done here, and the An Lár Café with its traditional old Irish font was charming
There were some very vibrant murals to seen throughout the town, I particularly liked the cosmic looking cows and owl one at Cowgreen. I saw a few old water pumps in the town which varied in their presentation, perhaps a future project could be done on these to bring them all up to the same standard and perhaps make more of a feature of them.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You are doing some fantastic work in the landscaping and ongoing maintenance of areas such as Bun Ditch, the Village Green and Cow green, as well as the really nice planting outside the Water Pump. The 1916 Memorial looked well cared for and there was some really nice planting to be seen here giving the area a lovely splash of

colour. Great work also being done with the maintenance of Little Park at Market Square and all the ongoing work that requires. It is nice to read that many of the green areas throughout your town are not only aesthetically pleasing, but that the various spaces are used during the summer for such activities as picnics and recreation as well as some Scout activities.
Your ongoing maintenance of key areas is acknowledged including the Little Park, Bun Ditch, Kilkullen Street green area, Village Green and Cow Green, old water pump and the 1798 monument. Ongoing native tree planting initiatives are also important so well done in this regard. We also applaud your efforts to increase the amount of pollinator friendly planting and biodiversity as well as looking at ways to reduce the need for commercial chemical weed killers. You can find some information and advice on the various alternatives on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan website at https://pollinators.ie/pesticide-alternatives/

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

You are very conscious of the importance of biodiversity and also of including as many pollinator friendly plants as possible in your landscaping and planting schemes, a good example of this being the beautiful planting at the flower bed in front of the Pumphouse which looks beautiful as well as ensuring sustenance for the bee, bug and butterfly populations, and also your work at the Bun Ditch flower bed, good work!. I didn't see any mention of a Biodiversity Plan for the town, perhaps this is something that you could explore with the Biodiversity Officer in the County Council if there is one, this does not have to be particularly complex to start with. As well as taking part in initiatives such as 'No Mow May' you are endeavouring to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity – friendly practices.

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

You are to be commended for your ambition to make Dunlavin a pesticide free town and controlling weeds without the use of often toxic chemical weedkillers. Other notable work you are doing in this category is the use of rainwater harvesting and the reuse of water as well as using homemade compost in the various planting schemes in the town Have you looked into how best to be energy efficient? There is some very useful information in relation renewable energy and the various grants that may be available to be found on the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland https://www.seai.ie/
Some other 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. one man's trash can be another ones treasure! I have seen some really lovely little 'free libraries' 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.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Overall, there was good litter control, with practically none to be seen except one or two empty soft drinks cans and snack wrappers. A lot of work obviously happening to keep this in check, from the daily litter picks being carried out by your members and the CE workers along with the additional mid-week and weekend clean ups organised to include as many members of your community as possible to assist. In addition, you participate in the Annual Spring Clean Up initiative which help instil a sense of purpose as well as improving the appearance of your environment. It is a pity to read that dog fouling is an issue, but that you are tackling the problem through creating awareness of it through social media and with assistance from Wicklow County Council, and hopefully this will help to persuade owners to pick up after their pets.

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

There is a good mix of housing types to be seen in Dunlavin, with some beautiful period3 storey townhouses to be seen in the centre of town, many very attractively painted and presented. Some of more modern housing estates visited included Chapel Manor which had some nice landscaping at the entrance including some pollinator friendly plants as well as very smart signage, and Fair Green which also looked well with some nice open space. You are also actively engaging with housing estates to encourage the establishment of Resident's Committees which is a great way for communities to bond and develop as well as help with applications for grants etc. It was great to note that new tree planting took place in various housing estates which are not only aesthetically pleasing but also help with habitats and biodiversity.

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

The classic black and white Dunlavin sign as you enter is very clean and smart looking and gives a good first impression of your town, perhaps some planting or flowers here would enhance it even more (there did appear to be some planting, but it was struggling). Likewise, the signage to be seen throughout your town was generally of a good standard and well maintained. The approach to Dunlavin was very well presented, no doubt due to the diligence of all those who volunteer to look after the kerbs, hedges and grass cutting etc. as you approach the town and keep it looking so well. You also make a great effort to look after the streets as well as public places with landscaping, cleaning, painting etc. and all the side streets I went into all looked well cared for. You also make sure that it is not all about the appearance of the town and endeavour to ensure that it is accessible and easy to navigate for all, well done.

Concluding Remarks:

Dunlavin was not a place that I was familiar with, and I really enjoyed my visit and seeing all the great work that you

are doing, and we wish you the best with all your future endeavours.