Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Grange Con - Gráinseach Choinn**	Ref:	**825**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**403**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**07/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	56	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	52	54
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	52	54
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	43	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	28	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	74	77
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	45	47
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**387**	**403**

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, legend and some lovely photographs of your work, much appreciated. For a small village 8 is a good number for your committee, however you can count on the assistance of an amazing additional 54 volunteers (including those involved in the Pure Mile initiative). The hard work that you do is obviously appreciated by your community and you enjoy strong connections with a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations. As well as the time commitment it can also be hard to raise funding needed to carry out some of the work, so it is fantastic to see that you have been able to obtain some grants from Pobal, SEAI and Wicklow County Council towards things such as planters, EMP Consultant , biodiversity planting etc. There are good communications using a variety of methods such as social media, local newspaper article and the diary of events idea for your Facebook page sounds like a good plan. It is lovely to see such interest and involvement by the younger members of the village, and that the local school children are strongly engaged with the Green School Programme (with a very impressive list of Green Flags in areas such as energy, biodiversity, global citizenship) as well as the Gaisce President’s Awards.

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

Grange Con is fortunate to have a most attractive streetscape with some fine buildings and lovely features to be seen as you stroll around the village. I really liked the hound wire sculpture, as well as the wire horse artwork, and the blue pump area is lovely and well maintained.
Commercial premises that caught the eye included the Grange Con Kitchen, which had lovely soft green paintwork and nice planting and seating outside, J. Moore’s which also well presented, with ‘Síopa’ written in a lovely traditional Irish font.
Ballynure Church is a beautiful building, and you are to be applauded for the work you have been doing advocating for the repair works needed. It is wonderful to hear of all the work already undertaken, on the roof, internal ceiling and guttering, whilst acknowledging there is still some way to go with stained glass window, hearting etc. fantastic work.
As part of your mission to become more sustainable and energy efficient you have strong ambitions for the Community Hall, with plans for energy upgrading and retrofitting as your SEC project. We have our fingers crossed that you get grant funding from the County Council, have you also checked with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland as well if there are any additional grants that you can apply for. The Oliver Plunkett’s Church, along with the Marian Shrine were spotless and much admired, as was the lovely clock on Bell Cottage.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Community Field is a wonderful amenity space to have in the village, and looked very clean when I visited, and all the new improvements were noticed, along with the native hedging, and good to note that you are planning to install solar powered lighting in the future. The playground area was well maintained and was very popular on the day I visited.
the many planters and galvanised troughs around the town were admired and well done on your ensuring that planting is a mix of pollinators friendly plants and perennials. The oak trees were doing well, and it is a lovely idea to have a Memorial Tree to honour those who are no longer with us. The area around the grotto was immaculate with some nice planting. Great work being done by the individuals who have taken 'ownership' of the 4 stone village signs and the flowerbeds in front of them.

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

You are fortunate to live in an area with a wealth of wildlife and nature to be appreciated in your immediate environment, and are working hard to help our habitats, pollinators and biodiversity. Thank you for providing information on your ongoing Swift Project. It is fantastic to read that following your monitoring that you can report that you have seen a year on year increase in these creatures and we note that you are registered with Swift Conservation Ireland and input your data with them so that an overall picture of how the Swift population is prospering in Ireland. Great work on the village Orchard which not only looks fantastic but a great way to improve biodiversity, and as well as looking lovely, it is nice to know that the produce is enjoyed by the entire community with anyone free to take some of the apples at your 'Free to give, Free to take stand'
The Mallen's Wood Wild Meadow is a great initiative, as is the 'Dead Hedges' project which helps provide homes for all kinds of insects, bugs and other creatures.
The results of the Reforestation West Wicklow Tree Planting project is most impressive with a resulting 40,000 plus native trees planted over the past 6 years.

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

Grange Con obviously has a very strong commitment to sustainability, energy efficiency and the circular economy. Congratulations on the SEAI grant worth €20,000 to help you to prepare your Energy Master Plan. This plan is to be tailored to the individual needs of the village and those that work and live in the area and surrounding townlands, taking account of the needs of the various businesses communities including the equine industry, farmers, and outdoor recreation as well as residents. Thank you very much for including content of your Energy Master Plan and the type of data that you will be looking to use as a baseline to how this improves in the future as implementation of the plan proceeds. You also have ambitious plans in relation to the Community Hall Energy Upgrade subject to funding being available and we wish you the best of luck with this. Other ways in which you are embracing the circular economy is the Grange con 'store cupboard' as well as distributing the bounty of apples from the orchard for all to enjoy.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The 'Pure Mile' project is a wonderful initiative, and your community appears to have embraced it enthusiastically. You have a veritable army of nearly 50 volunteers out in force to ensure the roads on the approach to your village are kept as pristine as possible. And well done on your award as part of the project, very well deserved. On the day that I visited Grange Con, there was no litter to be seen, so great work on that.
I enjoyed the 'Don't be a tosser' anti-litter sign posted by the Community Sports Field Committee that I saw that gets the message across in a humorous manner, asking people to reflect on why they would toss litter with the following 'answers' – "I'm Lazy", "I don't care abut the village" or "mummy still cleans up after me". I also spotted the 'bin the poo' sign asking people to clean up after their pets, which thankfully didn't appear to be a big problem on the day I was there.

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

The overall presentation of residential areas in the village is excellent; there is obviously a strong community spirit and pride of place. I also saw some beautiful gardens, many with pollinator friendly plants and flowers, though I am not sure if this is intentional or by coincidence. The houses and their gardens along the Stratford Road were admired, and Mallen's Wood Terrace was clean and well presented. The main streetscape of the village is most attractive, and you are doing great work in the upkeep and maintenance of it through weeding, litter picking, tidying as well as looking after the lovely planters which add a splash of colour to enhance the visual amenity even more.

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

The stone entrance sign to your village is most attractive including the incorporation of the horse's head acknowledging the long history of horse breeding and equestrian pursuits associated with the area. All the roads on the approach to the village were extremely well presented, litter free and tidy. It was great to see that although they were neat to allow for good visibility, there were areas left 'wild' to help promote biodiversity and help our habitats and pollinators. It is also good to read that you have noticed a reduction in the use of chemical herbicides, and you have helped raise awareness of the importance of this. Good work on the cleaning and maintenance of the various heritage signs to be seen in and around the village.

Concluding Remarks:

This was my first time visiting your lovely village and along with the results of all your hard work what shines through is a very strong sense of camaraderie and community spirit and commitment to ongoing improvements to where you live, bravo.