Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Greystones - Na Clocha Liatha**	Ref:	**261**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**410**
Category:	**G**	Date(s):	**23/06/2026**
			30/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	59	60
Streetscape & Public Places	80	58	60
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	43	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	29	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	45	46
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	44
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**397**	**410**

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 participation in this year’s competition and including so many lovely pictures of your work along with a very clear map (coded according to category which was greatly appreciated!) as well as your planning document. It is fantastic to see that inclusivity is a big part of the work that you do, whether this includes your Junior Tidy Towns programme, and getting the younger generation involved with beach cleans and the care of their environment or the many sociable events which also have a purpose. These include community events such as your ‘Ireland from Shore to Sea’ St. Patrick’s Day celebrations which put an emphasis on sustainability with the ‘Green Machine’ electric bike, and your biodiversity officer dressed as Poseiden with a costume created from recycled materials. The ‘Saturday Morning Market’ at the plaza in the harbour is also noted and must create a great buzz and help forge connections within your community. It is also noted that as well as your general WhatsApp group, you also have individual groups for niche work such as biodiversity, water, sustainable energy etc. Judging by the photographs of your volunteers in action there is very strong camaraderie as well as ‘craic’ along with all the hard work that you carry out, all very much in keeping with your ‘most liveable community’ ethos

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

it was a pleasure to ramble around the highways and byways of Greystones on a sunny day, with many colourful facades to be seen around the Main Street area.
Some businesses that caught the eye included Brooke & Shoals the Burnaby, The Beach House, One Dame Lane, as well as the eye-catching Happy Pear shop and restaurant, and the Boat Yard area was buzzing and full of colour and atmosphere. There are also many historic and heritage buildings to be seen along with some very attractive public buildings such as the Presbyterian Church, the beautiful library building, and the Holy Rosary Church amongst them. It is also fantastic to see architecturally significant buildings such as the Menlo Victorian House being repurposed with the intention of sympathetic restoration and conversion into a restaurant, and also the new shopfronts at 1-2 Trafalgar Road.
Very good signage to be seen throughout the town for both residents and visitors alike, and there were also some lovely murals spotted around the town which added a bit of colour and interest.
You are to be applauded for your efforts to help improve the experience and raise awareness of those with accessibility needs through your ‘Make Way Day’ to make people more conscious of keeping paths and pavements clear and usable by all, but especially for those that need some extra support.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

As well as the wonderful amenity value of your coastal setting, and the Coastal Linear Park, there are many beautiful and well-maintained green spaces to be enjoyed in your town. I particularly liked Burnaby Park which had some beautiful landscaping, including plenty of pollinator friendly plants as well as some very well maintained seating, and the chess board tables are a good way to try and get people to connect with each other people in your community, it would be interesting to know if these are used much?. I thought the 'monster' boards were charming and a fun way to get young kids interested in reading and the Pétanque Court looked very well-tended. The Sensory Garden was a delight to visit, and I really liked the 'Wall of Memories' showing historic pictures of Greystones through the ages. You are doing great work at the st. Crispin's heritage site, not only on the maintenance and cleaning of debris surrounding the site, but also the research and interpretive signage, well done also on your work in ensuring that the 1916 Memorial is well maintained and it was looking very well on the day I visitec.
Good work on your Native Bluebell Project, and I really like the approach that you are taking to ensure that there is colour in the many flowerbeds to be seen throughout your town, and that fact that you make sure to plant seasonal flowers, but just make sure to include as many pollinator friendly plants as you can. The lobster pots at La Touche are a nice nod to your nautical heritage as well as a way of upcycling the pots that may otherwise be discarded.

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

There are a lot of interesting projects going on in this category which is no surprise given the wealth of flora and fauna to be found in in Greystones and environs.
I was fascinated to read about the partnership between Wicklow County Council and the Green Ocean Foundation whereby native oysters are being used as organic filters to help with biodiversity in the marine environment as well as filter out undesirable material thereby enhancing water quality and supporting the marine habitat. Your marine environment is obviously of great importance to the community, and you help protect it for all through the care of the Riparian woodlands, participation by some of your members in Seal Rescue training and the local primary schools getting involved with seashore safaris with the help of the Marine Institute of Ireland, and the Explorers Education programme which teaches about marine creatures egg cases as well as shells, seaweeds and crabs.
You are strongly embracing the concept of 'Citizen Science' as shown by the initiative along the Charlesland Dual Carriageway involves engaging volunteers in studying biodiversity, protecting critical habitats, as well as helping to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
Other initiatives include the Wildflower Kerb Surveys, the Bluebell Project to restore and replenish the stock of native Irish Bluebells, with an impressive planting of 800 native Bluebells along the perimeter of the park, which I am sure will look stunning in Spring.

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

Congratulations on winning your Climate Action Award, very well deserved
Your work in this area includes the Greystones keep cup, which you are using as a weapon in your war against the estimated shocking number of 3,000 disposable cups that are thrown away every day in Greystones. I really liked the fact that this scheme has different options, ideally most people would have a 'keep cup' with them, but this is not always practical so the option to hire one with a refundable deposit is innovative. Great work being done through the Solar Meitheal project with the installation of 334 solar panels, EV chargers along with technical advice, guidance and economies of scale giving cost savings This initiative has helped over 70 homes over its lifetime and as well as helping reduce approximately 30 tonnes of CO_2 also helps in these times of rising energy prices.
There is a huge amount of work ongoing in this category. These include such things as the shared E-Bike scheme, the Reloved – 'Remake, Remodel' Fashion Show' leaf mould cages, the little seed library as well as the free book library, and various workshops and a visit to the Happy Pear Farm. Indeed, it is noted that many other local businesses are getting involved, with many getting B Corps certification showing transparency and alignment of commercial prosperity and environmental responsibility, these include the aforementioned Happy Pear which are well known for their sustainable approach to locally produced low air miles food and produce as well as others such as Bread 41, Susan Collins Home of Hair and OutWest Clothing.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Despite the fact that Greystones was bustling with activity on the day that I visited, there was very little litter to be seen, apart from one exception at the car park near the South Beach area, where the bins could not accommodate all the rubbish placed near them, and were overflowing, and this was presumably due to a large number of people at the beach given that it was a very hot and sunny day.
You have a lot of initiatives in place to ensure Greystones remains as litter free as possible, from your Saturday Clean Crew, the Charlesland Crew as well as specific actions being taken on issues such as graffiti as well as the work you are carrying out in relation to the serious issue of Nitrous Canister Waste.
When there are specific issues of litter collecting at blackspots I know that some TidyTowns groups have 'swat' teams that go out and tackle a specific area if they become aware of an issue in addition to their regular scheduled clean ups, perhaps this is something that you could consider, if needed from time to time?
I also noticed signs to encourage people to not litter and bring home rubbish such as on the Coastal Linear Park, and they seem to be working., this area was pristine, with not one piece of litter to be seen. The main Recycling Bin area at South Beach car park was also very clean and well maintained.
It is great to see that the younger generation are also playing their part with the 5th class from St. Brigid's school remove nearly 33kg of storm related debris through the South Beach Clean-Up in conjunction with Flossie and the Beach Cleaners. The Junior Tidy Towns Beach Clean Kit is also a really practical way to encourage involvement by local children with the provision of child friendly litter pickers, waste bags, first kit along with educational resources,

great work.

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

Great work being done here with tree grant assistance from Wicklow County Council with a mix of orchard and kerbside trees being planted to help enhance biodiversity as well as improve the streetscape.
Well done also to residents of the Burnaby area on their community clean-up and litter pick up initiatives.
The residents of Hawkins Wood have some really interesting initiatives being carried out including the 'Plot to Plate' programme, workshops on organic gardening, composting, sustainable food production as well as biodiversity. Well done also to those living in Rathdown park and all the work they are doing to enhance their area through the planting of trees, a family fun day with an impressive number of over 400 bulbs planted in the woodland area as well as the general upkeep of their shared green spaces and tidying and graffiti removal.
Some of the residential areas visited included Marina Village Apartments, The Moorings, La Touche Apartments, as well as the Rise complex all very well kept, and there were some beautiful Town Houses to be seen as I walked around, many with very fine mature gardens, and plenty of pollinator friendly plants to be seen.

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

The approach roads into Greystones are overall very clean, with clear signage and markings and well maintained. The main car park area was very tidy and litter free on the day that I visited even though it was a very sunny and busy day in the town. There was very good hard and soft landscaping here which softens the look of the area and helps screen the cars to make it more visually attractive.
A lot of fantastic work being done with planting, such as the shrub bed at Rathdown Road and the path improvement works at the St Crispin's area

Concluding Remarks:

It was an absolute pleasure to stroll around your lovely town on a sunny day and enjoy a walk along the coast and the colour and character of the Main Street and surrounding areas, and witness all the great work that you are carrying out.

Second Round Adjudication:

Thank you to Greystones Tidy Towns so much for all the work that went into your entry into the Large Urban Centre Category G section of this year's National Tidy Towns Competition. Your 56 page entry was very clear and detailed to allow the adjudicator make an assessment of your activities throughout the last year. The submission was well presented, with each activity being identified as either new or maintenance and also being aligned with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. Excellent use has been made of colour to separately identify the categories. You have also included a significant number of high quality photographs showing your teams at work and at play during the year. You have taken an organised and structured approach to completing the application form.

Your document is excellent but it is overly detailed. It is suggested that you amend the mini-essay approach in the text and make more use of bullet points to make it easier for adjudicators to read. Also, you might consider reviewing your documents for duplication and repetition and also for items that might be dated. Please also note that there is a 500 word limit in each category so please adhere to this request in future submissions.

You have also included an indexed colour-coded map of Greystones, which was of great assistance on the inspection visit.

The 2 page plan attached with your entry is a succinct and clear document of your future ambitions, and is wide-ranging and covers many aspects of the work of the Tidy Towns team.

You have prepared your submission methodically and prepared a sufficient and satisfactory response to all the various category headings requested.
It is very apparent that you have a strong committee and a committed body of volunteers, and you enjoy a significant amount of support across the wider community and your value is recognised.
You have established good working relationships with a diverse range of volunteer groups all working towards the common goals, that is very encouraging. As a coastal town there are many very active and committed groups who are interested in our marine environment who are making their contribution in various and interesting ways.
The support of Wicklow County Council and the Wicklow Tidy Towns Forum in particular is especially valued.
Greystones Tidy Towns with others continues to work towards making Greystone more inclusive for autistic people and their families.
Your web-site is very well set out and included all the essential information and news necessary for a town of this size, including provision for new members to be kept updated by newsletter.
Greystones is a rapidly developing town with a significant number of new housing estates changing the nature of what was a small coastal town with historic Victorian core mix of streets, buildings and public spaces, under the Wicklow hills. It is now an expanding commuter town served by public transport including train station, requiring park and ride facilities and all the other amenities of suburban living including schools, healthcare, community, art, cultural and sporting facilities, parks and green spaces, and business parks.
The first adjudicator's report has set out a detailed record of the many heritage buildings and shop fronts which

remain central to Greystones and which will not be repeated in this second adjudicator's report. However in a time of delivery of modern libraries, particular acknowledgement is made of the Greystones 1910 library building which has retained it's own unique character.

The importance of the DART station for Greystones has been recognised by Tidy Towns by the delivery of new feature planters and also the new totem, all of which helped make Greystones a very attractive point of journey.

Burnaby Park is a great oasis to have in the town, with good planting and tree cover, particular mention made of 2 trees, a relatively unusual long-lived disease-resistant dioeciou non-native gingko tree in a public space in the verge next to the road, and also the native oak tree planted some years ago to mark the closing down of the municipal district council.
The stainless steel water feature at the entrance to Burnaby Park is showing signs of wear and tear.
Tidy Towns are doing excellent work in terms of maintaining the tree cover for the town, an increasingly important aspect of the environment for towns as the benefits of trees for towns become apparent. Congratulations to the Greystones Scouts on their centenary and it is entirely appropriate that the celebration has been marked by tree planting. Bi Ullamh.
The installation of the new bee lodge posts to the excellent Sensory Garden, to the Redford Estate orchard and in Killinacarrig by the Irish Bee Conservation Project is another example of local encouragement of biodiversity and nature.
It is more than likely because of the recent very hot weather conditions, but the produce from the herbs for sharing planters were in poor condition on the day of adjudication. The timbers planters themselves could also be repaired, touched up and re-painted.
You have set out an impressive array of activities promoting the philosophy of sustainability - the wider Greystones community were very successful at the Council's Sustainable Development Awards, congratulations to all, especially the students, teachers and mentors of the Community National School, and the Redford Park and St. Crispin's resident associations.
As happened nationwide, the arrival of the deposit return scheme to the retail units in Greystones has resulted in a significant drop-off of plastic bottles and cans being littered. On the day of the visit, the facility at the Aldi store was easily accessible and was being used.
You have also highlighted the widespread issue of discarded nitrous oxide canisters, which is not unique to Greystones or indeed to Wicklow. The concerns of the various Tidy Towns in relation to this scourge have been noted.
Excellent work on the Tiglin Mural at the North Beach - well done to Tidy Towns for helping the local artists carry out this great work.
On the day of the second adjudication report, the bins at the South Beach car were cleared and available for use.

The housing estates in and around visited by this adjudicator were generally in good condition, well maintained, good green areas, many with good trees cover. Obviously it will take some time for the newer estates to mature but the initial impressions were good.
The approach roads to and from the town were well looked after, generally with good signage and road markings, traffic calming measures in place and planting to verges where possible.
However, some of the approach roads signage could be cleaned including for example the Killinacarrig sign leaving Greystones
The condition of some of the benches at the green space at the Mill Road might also be improved
Over the last 20 years, Greystones Tidy Towns Volunteers and their supporters have put in thousands of hours and given their energy and innovation to making their town a place to be proud of. You have established a very proud legacy.
We wish you every success going forward to 2026 and beyond.