Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Knockananna - Cnoc an Eanaigh**	Ref:	**247**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**384**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**04/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	53	55
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	57
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	36	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	29	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	71
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**370**	**384**

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 continued entry into the competition, there are not many entrants who can say that they have been with us since the beginning! and thank you for including map as well as your 3 Year Plan, as well as some lovely photographs to illustrate the work that you are doing. There appears to be great camaraderie and community spirit as well as support for all that you are doing for your village. Along with your 12 committee members and 8 volunteers you mention the strong support you get from the residents of Knockananna, as well as organisations such as Wicklow County Council, your local GAA Club, as well as newer members of the community. There is good engagement with your local school with school children assisting with litter picking, water plants as well as other suitable tasks.
There is good communications including social media such as your Facebook Page, WhatsApp group as well as the use of local media and the ever reliable ‘word of mouth’. And it is great to read that your involvement with TidyTowns has acted as a tool for social integration and a way of people to participate in the life of your village.
The ‘Away with the Fairy’ collaboration project between Knockananna Tidy Towns and Scoil Naomh Bríd National School is a wonderful initiative.

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

Your village is most attractive with lovely features to be seen throughout the village such as the animal sculptures and other installations as well as lovely thatched cottages, pots, planters etc. in an extremely neat and clean streetscape.
Fantastic work on the art installation project created by the collaboration between Scoil Naomh Bríd National Scool, Knockananna Tidy Towns and the artists Tadashi Kato, Pius Ojo and creative director Tony Fegan with over 60 school children involved. We would also love if you could please include some photographs of the ‘magical gloaming’ at the village crossroads as part of Culture Night, it sounds enchanting.
The Church of the Immaculate Conception was beautifully presented, spotlessly clean and nicely set off by the beautiful stone wall in front of it, and the grotto area was pristine. The Community Hall was also well maintained, as was the 1798 Memorial Garden flanked by some lovely roses and landscaping.
All the street furniture and signage and notice board and information boards were in good condition and well cared for including the eye-catching multicoloured benches

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your Sensory Garden was an absolute delight to visit, one of the nicest that I have seen. There were lovely labels such as the 'Smell me' one beside the lavender, one to encourage you to 'Taste the Herbs' as well as the 'Bee Beautiful Love' sign, and another one inspiring you to 'Let your Dreams Blossom'. Everywhere you looked there was something to hear, taste, see or experience, a charming place to spend some time. There was a beautiful feature using the traditional old yellow and green painted water pump near one of the thatched cottages, and a beautiful flourish of roses outside the Keogh's Old Forge building. I loved seeing the various art works and installations in the village as well as the lovely animal sculptures and also spotted the new flower planter beside the colourful recycled bicycle planter. Well done to the local children for the work they are doing to take care of the flower beds outside the school, and for learning how to collect and grow their own seeds as well as water, weed and tend to their plants. There is some really lovely landscaping to be seen throughout the entire village, too much for me to mention all of your work here, great work!

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

Knockananna is fortunate to live in a beautiful setting with a wealth of nature and biodiversity. You are incorporating sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in your work to encourage habitats so that wildlife can thrive as well as pollinator positive initiatives. You do not use chemical weedkillers or pesticide, instead using a harmless but effective mix of water vinegar and salt. You also make your own plant food and use rainwater harvesting from the water butts located around your village, and I also saw your leaf mould composting cages which seemed to be filling up nicely. I was delighted to read of your championing of our bat community, a fascinating creature that is often treated with fear instead out of a lack of information and education, so well done on the installation of five more bat boxes as well as the new bird boxes, and a shout out to the members of your local Men's Shed for their work on these. You are also continuing to educate members of your community with information on the Yew trees in the graveyard giving some information about them and the tradition and symbolism of incorporating them here.

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

Congratulation on your well-deserved EPA Economy Award sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency. You have really championed the principles of the circular economy in a lot of your work, and particularly your ongoing Car Boot Sale. This is a fantastic way to reduce perfectly usable items from going into landfill and finding a new home when no longer wanted by the original purchaser, as well as generating funds for your work. The event also sounds like a lovely social event with the numerous cups of tea, not to mention the home-made jam on offer. Unfortunately, my visit to Knockananna was a few days past the 27th of June Car Boot Sale according to your notice board or I would have paid it a visit.
Other items that people may pick up in the village includes new reading material from your little phone box library or a plant on the stand beside it.
Other ways in which you are being sustainable includes saving seeds for reuse, and you have mentioned various areas where wildflowers have self-seeded. You also make your own plant food and take advantage of water butts and rainwater harvesting. Is there much use of renewable sources such as solar in the village? There is some very useful information in relation to sustainable issues to be found on the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland https://www.seai.ie/ including the various grants that are available.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

On the day that I visited your village it was pristine, I think I found one solitary piece of paper, amazing work! The fact that this has been achieved through only four litter picks throughout the year is testament to the individual responsibility that residents have taken in keeping the village and environs clean. The Car Boot Sale is a practical way of reducing waste to landfill and repurposing items from people who no longer need them to those that do. Well done to the school children on the work that they have carried out in April and their assistance with cleaning up after grass cutting. Do you participate in the An Taisce Annual Spring Clean or the 'Pure Mile' project? Perhaps these could be initiatives that you could consider getting involved with. Something else that could be done occasionally would be an audit of street furniture, unused poles etc. to see if there is anything causing 'visual clutter' to make the village even tidier looking.

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

All the houses seen were presented to a very high standard, and it is obvious that there is a strong shared sense of pride and community spirit.
There were also some beautiful gardens seen, and I saw a sold sign on the beautiful, thatched cottage (though I noted a sign saying this was previously used by the Credit Union, so not sure if this is going to be used for residential or commercial purpose). Both Kyle Park and Knockmullen Drive had very attractive signage and entrances with some lovely landscaping.
You are fortunate that you have no vacant or derelict buildings in your village, a rare occurrence throughout many rural towns and villages in Ireland alas. It is lovely to hear that the more senior residents are given assistance in taking care of their homes.

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

There is a lovely classic black and white sign as you enter Knockananna (though this was slightly obscured by the greenery around it when I visited). The approach roads were immaculate with lush greenery and trees along with attractive stone walls on the approach and throughout the village. We note that you are taking a very sustainable

approach to the upkeep of the approach roads taking account of No Mow May to ensure that the pollinators can get sustenance from the Dandelions in early Spring and use natural fertilizer from manure as well as mulching. There are some lovely walks to be found on the outskirts of the village, and the new signs were noticed as was the work at the flower bed on the Tinahely road, and great that the Hill Road Walk was newly resurfaced.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit your lovely village and to see all the great work that you are carrying out, and best of luck with your future endeavours.