Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Lacken - An Leacain**	Ref:	**2233**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**317**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**27/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	41	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	28	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	39
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**304**	**317**

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 (your 10th year in the competition) and including some lovely pictures of your work alongside a map of the village. It is also great to read that your involvement in the competition has helped new members of the community to integrate, in addition to the visual and environmental benefits that you have seen. You collaborate with a broad range of other organisations and bodies such as Wicklow County Council, Pobal, Coilte, along with community groups and local businesses. You also have a good relationship with the local National School through one of your committee members as well as your local scout group. Good work on your involvement with Eco Congregation Ireland, and great to read about the commitment to ensure that 30% of church grounds is used for sustainable projects.

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

Within your small village, the main buildings are all well cared for and attractive such as the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, along with the National School which had some lovely murals on the national school such as the Kind Hands one, and the old school/Community Centre in progress. The Church grounds were very well maintained, and the Rose bed added a lovely splash of colour to the area.
It is fantastic news to read that there is finally some progress on the redevelopment of the old schoolhouse into a Community Centre, and we hope to read in next year’s application of the opening of this and hopefully many events.
It is a shame that the T.Richardson General Store has been closed for so many years, it is such a lovely building and looks very attractive despite no longer being in use as a shop.
I was very intrigued by the Lacken Mass Path/ hillwaker’s access route and noted that it is urging people to ‘leave no trace’ to encourage those who trek the trail to keep it clean and litter free.
I spotted the stone bench with the lovely Irish saying to sit down and tell me a story, a nice little spot to rest for a while.
Well done on the work that you have done on the border leading to Zeller’s pub and the Church to ensure year-round colour and interest.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Lacken enjoys a beautiful setting amongst the Wicklow mountains and near the lake so you are lucky that you do not have to do much to ‘gild the lily’, but the work that you are carrying out such as the new flower beds adds a lovely splash of colour to the backdrop of green and the lovely grey dry stone walls to be seen as you approach and throughout the village. The Blue boat planter with its flourish of wildflowers was charming, although the flowers

seemed to be spilling into the area surrounding it, and I was not sure if this was intentional or not. I loved the little area with the stone dolman looking bench as well.
You are to be applauded for the planting of 150 hedging trees on the mass path and for the upkeep and maintenance of this area and for the extensive repairs that you have carried out and well done on the innovative QR code idea to update on any issues spotted on the trail. The Cherry Tree 'island' looked lovely as did the many flowerbeds that you maintain in the village, and there are some lovely dry-stone walls to be seen both as you approach and throughout the village

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

You are encouraging passers by to think of our pollinators with signage such as 'pardon the weeds, we are feeding the Bees', and you are implementing a minimum mow policy in the summer months to help habitats.
The 'Wild about Lacken Uplands' sign provides some beautiful illustrations of the local flora and fauna with lots of information about them and their habitats etc. some of the creatures to be found in your environs include Pine Martins, Pippistrelle Bats, Woodpeckers, and Ravens. Have you carried out any type of surveys of these or organise bat or bird walks?
The wildflower area behind the boat planter looked gorgeous and was buzzing with bees and insect life when I visited.
There is great work being done Lacken National School, and congratulations to them on achieving an impressive 6th Green Flag. Some of the work that they are engaging in includes initiatives in relation to water conservation, waste, energy efficiency and biodiversity a great example for all. Some of the produce that the pupils of the school have harvested include Plums, Apples, Strawberries as well as vegetables such as lettuce, beetroots, turnip and potatoes very inspiring.

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

The Lacken's little free library is a gorgeous construction, though a small bit of varnish here would go a long way to restore it to its full glory as it is looking a slight bit weather beaten, though it is great to read that it has been a great success especially amongst your younger members of the community and that there is a high turnover of reading material.
Hats off to the members who participated in the 'Climate Justice' course, and what a great practical assignment they carried out with the construction of Bat boxes from old pallets.
If you have not done so already you can find some very useful information in relation to sustainable issues, as well as the various grants available to both residential and commercial premises at the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland https://www.seai.ie/
Some 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. a practical way of espousing the circular economy ethos.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your village was practically litter free on the day that I visited no doubt due as a result of all the regular litter picks carried out by your members and the community. Well done on your participation in the 'Pure Mile Project' and the collaboration with the local scout group on this. Do you also participate in the An Taisce Annual Spring Clean?
It is great to read that the younger residents of the village are also getting involved with the National School carrying out a number of litter picks throughout the school year, focussing on the beach area.

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

Although Lacken only has a small housing stock, without housing estates etc. it is evident that the residents of your village take great pride in where they live and in keeping their property and garden maintained and presented to a very high standard and are espousing the ethos of sustainability and promoting biodiversity. Most of the gardens that I saw were beautiful, many with pollinator friendly plants. It was also heartening to read that your participation in the TidyTowns competition also helps newcomers to get to know their neighbours and integrate into the community. Thank you for including some photographs of entrances to houses which show the care and pride that your community have in their area.

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

The black Welcome to Lacken sign is most attractive and the froth of flowers on the approach to the village just before this looked gorgeous. Other signage in the village is well maintained, and there is a lovely illustrated one showing the various places of interest in the village. Thank you for providing a picture of the Bluebells on the roadside in Spring, it must be a beautiful sight to behold when they are in full flower. Ascough's wildflower bank on the side of the road as you approach from Blessington is lovely and creates a lovely vista as you drive along.

Concluding Remarks:

This was my very first visit to Lacken, and I very much enjoyed seeing your lovely village in its beautiful setting with stunning views to be enjoyed. Well done on all the work that you achieved to date and we wish you the best of luck with your future endeavours.