Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Laragh/Glendalough - An Láithreach/Gleann Dá Loch**	Ref:	**260**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**361**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**12/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	50	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	39	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	21	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	71	73
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	40
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**347**	**361**

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 form, and your continued participation in the competition, with an impressive 35 years of involvement with Tidy Towns under your belt. Along with a solid number of 11 on your committee, you can count on a veritable army of 41 additional volunteers, which speaks volumes about how the value of the work you are doing is appreciated. There is also very good engagement with a wide variety of different agencies and organisations ranging from Wicklow County Council to local businesses, the National Parks and Wildlife Services and your local PPN and others. You also encourage the younger members of your community to get involved with your local school and scout group doing such jobs as litter picking, dead hedge maintenance and Bluebell planting. It is great to read that your involvement in the competition has helped raise awareness and education in relation to such topics such as sustainable development and biodiversity and that you endeavour to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals in your work.

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

There are some beautiful traditional dry-stone walls to be seen as I strolled around which really enhance the area, and most of these seemed to be maintained to a good standard.
The various public houses and restaurants, such as The Glendalough Hotel, The Wicklow Heather Restaurant, and Lynhams were all well-presented and attractive and the Heather House Guest House looked absolutely charming.
There is good signage to be found throughout your village including good information of things of interest to both tourist and resident alike such as St. Kevin’s Way, as well as the various walking trails that can be explored. We look forward to the full development of the Laragh Heritage Trail, this will be of great interest to both visitors and members of the community alike.
The sign at Laragh with its beautiful illustration of the various sites of interest was particularly appealing. You are to be lauded for the impressive planting that you completed, with 572 indigenous trees planted, along with the 300 Crocuses throughout various green spaces in your area. We also note that there is currently a Conservation Management Plan underway in relation to Glendalough and includes the various stakeholders such as Wicklow County Council, Coilte, the OPW etc. and we look forward to seeing the completion of this.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Both Glendalough and Laragh enjoy being in a particularly beautiful part of Wicklow, with the National Park, lakes

and historic Monastic Site on your doorstep. The entrance to the Monastic Site is beautiful with the stone arches leading the visitor into the historic area. There are many mature trees to be seen as you traverse the area enhancing your environment, and great work on the additional planting of over 200 indigenous trees which you have achieved with the support of ReWild Wicklow. I also really liked the display of vintage farm equipment and machinery opposite the Glendalough Hotel, a nice way to show off the heritage and history of the area.
The various businesses in the area are very well presented with some lovely landscaping to be seen at Heather's Restaurant, and some vibrant hanging baskets outside Lynham's of Laragh. There were some lovely planters at the junction and the green space here was very well maintained. It is great to see that you have made sure to include pollinator friendly plants in your schemes, and for further information please check out the All-Ireland Pollinator plan if you have not done so already.

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

The planting of 1000 native flowers including Snowdrops, Crocuses and Bluebells is very impressive, and I would love to see these in the Spring in full bloom. As well as creating a beautiful vista they also help support our pollinator population and support biodiversity, and wonderful to read about the involvement of your local school in this project. It is great to read that you are working on a biodiversity plan for the Laragh Glendalough district with input from the local farming community as well as your local Biodiversity Officer and look forward to seeing this when it is completed. I love the idea of the 'Outdoor Classroom' a wonderful way to get the younger members of your community excited by the nature and environment that surrounds them and to help protect it for the future. Although it is fantastic to have a wealth of fauna including the local deer population, this of course presents its own challenges, so good work on the deer protection fencing that has been installed.

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

The Citizen Science initiative is a wonderful way to involve communities to not only understand the environment around them but through sharing their findings help track what is happening and, in some cases, improve and remediate it. Fantastic work being done by LGTT in relation to the monitoring of the water quality of some of your local rivers and streams, an important part of the water network for biodiversity and habitats. The two citizen science schemes you have been involved with in conjunction with LAWPRO - the citizen science stream index (CSSI) as well as the Small Stream Impact Score (SSIS) provide invaluable data to be used by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. In addition to this, data has been gathered on a particularly unique Mayfly (Ameletus Inopinatus), as well as sampling of areas where water quality and flooding issues may exist, well done!
Great work also being done on by Laragh Glendalough Sustainable Energy Community in raising awareness of sustainable energy options and their impact on ameliorating the effects of climate change. This initiative included the engagement of many different organisations and appears to have been a great success with robust discussion and sharing of information. Thank you very much for including the article which was included in The Wicklow People which made for a very interesting read.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Despite being very busy due to the good weather both Laragh and Glendalough were virtually litter free, apart from a few scraps and a couple of abandoned coffee cups, well done.
The bins specially for dog poop and signs for owners to clean up after their pets were noticed and seem to be working as I did not come across this being an issue. It is dispiriting to read that there have been issues with illegal dumping, particularly into the Avonmore River, not only impacting on the beauty of your environment, but possibly having severe implications for water quality and habitats. However, you have done trojan work to clean this with about 30 bags of rubbish collected, so much that a tractor was required to remove them. This work was recognised with a 'Rapid Response' award by The Pure Mile Project, and deservedly so.
The various scenes of different scenic areas of Wicklow on the bins is a nice idea, a good way to help instil a sense of civic pride for those who live and work in the area and to advertise some of the beautiful places that visitors can experience

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

The various residential areas and estates visited appeared to be maintained to a high standard. Those seen included Cluain Ban, Mountain View, Brockagh as well as the Beechwood estate which has a very attractive green space with some good quality landscaping and planting, and very interesting to read that the residents here have set up a WhatsApp group to enhance communications. There are also some very eye-catching town houses and individual houses, and the Heather House Guest House was charming. It is great to see the great work being done by the resident's associations and that they manage the cutting of the grass in the estates. The provision of a voucher to purchase plants etc. is a nice idea and great to read that you are embracing the idea of allowing some areas to grow a 'wild' meadow area to encourage biodiversity.

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

You have a natural advantage with the approach to Laragh and Glendalough given the beautiful setting and beautiful mature trees and dry-stone walls. However, these don't stay so pristine looking by chance and I know that a huge amount of effort goes into keeping these clean and litter free, with extra litter picking taking place when the tourist season is at its peak. The welcome signs on the approach roads looked very smart and there is very attractive signage to be seen with useful information for visitors and residents alike. Good work on keeping the trails at Ballard and Brockagh clean and to your Community Worker for all that they do.

Concluding Remarks:

It is always a pleasure to visit the villages of Laragh and Glendalough as well as to stroll around the National Park and Monastic Site and to see all the great work that you are doing to enhance and protect this wonderful setting.