Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Rathdangan - Ráth Daingin**	Ref:	**1538**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**315**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**04/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	25	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	18	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	37
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**302**	**315**

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 also for including your map with legend. Despite being a small village there appears to be a lot happening on the ground, with many social events as well as all the hard work that you carry out cleaning and tidying and planning. In addition to monthly dances, you have had a talent show, carol-singing, Christmas tree lighting and a very exciting sounding ‘Witches Walk’ at Halloween to name a few. You have a strong cohort of 12 committee members as well as an additional 10 volunteers, with regular meetings, volunteer events as well as the litter picks and clean ups. You can also count on assistance from a wide range of other statutory and voluntary organisations such as Wicklow County Council, the local PPN, as well as working with Rathcoyle and the school there. You also have good communications vis your website, WhatsApp groups as well as Facebook and use local media. It would be fantastic for your community to have additional capacity in the village hall to help you with your many events and we wish you the best of luck in achieving this and hopefully obtaining some funding.

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

Although Rathdangan is a small village, there is a rich history and heritage here, and I really enjoyed the Heritage Trail and the unexpected gems that I would probably have missed if I had not been directed to them, such as the Shoeing Stone. I also liked the acknowledgement of the former uses of some of the buildings in the town such as the Former R.I.C. Barracks and Gaol
There is a lovely traditional water pump that would benefit from a fresh coat of paint and could be used as a lovely focal point, perhaps a project for the future?
The Community Centre which is very much the hub and heart of the village especially as there are no pubs or restaurants was well presented and we wish you well on the plans for the upgrade and extension of the centre.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

I really enjoyed spending some time in the sensory garden and meditative space, and the area is enhanced through the use of native hedging and trees, and I also loved seeing the little quirky elements such as the milk churns and bicycle planter as I strolled around the village. The Marian Shrine was immaculate and very well maintained. There is obviously a lot of ongoing hard work being carried such as weeding, pruning, tidying as well as trimming back the verges as needed. The lovely grey stone walls have been nicely complemented by planting at various points and green areas are well maintained.

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

Good work on the creation of an area to help bugs and insects in the playground and amenity area, there is no need to have any fancy structures and the timber pile provided does the trick!. The wildflower area is a great spot to provide pollinator friendly sustenance for our butterflies and bees, and great to see native species such as Holly, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Do you have any signs showing the various flora and fauna that can be found in your village or surrounding areas, (and apologies if I missed any), it can be a good way to get people more aware of what is surrounding them, perhaps even a handmade one as a project with a local school?. I noticed you have some fantastic images on your website of the wealth of wildlife to be found in your village, perhaps you can use some of these?. It is great to see your endeavours to increase the amount of pollinator friendly planting and biodiversity and if you have not done so already there is excellent information and advice to be found on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan website as well as some alternatives to chemical based weedkillers and pesticides etc. at https://pollinators.ie/pesticide-alternatives/

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

It is great to hear that you have received planning permission for the extension, energy upgrade of your community centre, though it is a pity to hear that due to cost issues this has not commenced to date. Have you been in contact with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to see if there are any grants that you can avail of, there is some very useful information to be found on their website at https://www.seai.ie/
Good work on the establishment of a Sustainable Energy Community in collaboration with St. Patrick's Missionary Society to help improve energy efficiency within your community, it will be very interesting to see how this progresses in the future, and would be useful if you can get some baseline data so you can track progress of the project, or will this be included in the energy master plan?
A few other ideas you could consider for this category could be having 'swop shops' for pre loved items such as old sports gear, books, clothes etc. or perhaps a little 'free library' where people can leave a book they no longer want and take one they have yet to read as part of the circular economy.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Rathdangan was immaculate and practically litter free on the day that I visited your village, well done on this. Overall, street furniture, paths and signage all looked clean as did footpaths, but it is good to read that you have received funding to replace the posts on the heritage trail.
You are to be commended for your participation in the 'Pure Mile' project, (though in your case 10 miles!) and even more so on reading that this includes all members of your community, both young and old, and everyone in between. There is very good ongoing maintenance of the village through litter picking, planting and pruning, weeding, as well as upkeep of the grass verges, and we note your recent acquisition of a new ride-on mower to help you with your work.

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

The majority of the homes seen in the village had excellent presentation and well cared for and we spotted some gorgeous gardens with fine floral displays and landscaping. Along with the small residential development there were some lovely cottages and farmhouse type buildings seen. Well done to so many residents working on the appearance of their properties over the past few years through planting, painting, cleaning etc. keep up the hard work. Perhaps it would be an idea to have a some friendly rivalry and have a competition for best presented house, best pollinator friendly garden etc?.

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

The approach to your village is filled with greenery from the line of trees and charming stone walls. There is some lovely landscaping and planting to be seen throughout Rathdangan, and the milk churns were a very attractive focal point on the Aughrim approach, a lovely tip to your agricultural heritage.
The classic black and white sign as you enter the village is very clean and well maintained, though I do feel that the community alert sign attached to it (important as it is) detracts slightly from its appearance, would it be possible to place this somewhere else?
we look forward to seeing the completion of your plans to have a flower bed at the base of the four approaches to the village and pleased to read that this will include pollinator friendly planting.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit your charming village for the first time, and fantastic to see so much activity and energy despite the lack of traditional meeting places like a pub or other commercial premises. Fantastic work being done in the community and we wish you the best with your future projects.