Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Rathdrum - Ráth Droma**	Ref:	**998**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**344**
Category:	**C**	Date(s):	**28/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	49
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	37	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	19	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	42
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**328**	**344**

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 for your continued participation with over 22 years involvement, and it is heartening to hear that the positive influence it has had on your town. Some of the great work that you are doing for your community involved cleaning and litter picking after events such as the St. Patrick’s Day parade, the Christmas Festival as well as encouraging amenities such as the River Walk and Parnell Walk as well as helping residents integrate and make new friends. You enjoy support from a very wide range of organisations within your community, including voluntary groups, businesses as well as statutory agencies, a strong endorsement of all the work that you carry out. There is good communication using social media such as Instagram and Facebook as well as through local newspapers, posters, WhatsApp as well as word of mouth, and there were some lovely photographs to be seen on your Instagram and Facebook pages illustrating all the work you are carrying out. Although you do not have a formal Junior Tidy Towns, it is great to hear that the younger residents get involved and that the local schools, scouts and guides also help with some of your litter picks, and hopefully in time the capacity for involving schools more in your work will increase.

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

The information sign features a beautifully illustrated map showing the various points of interest to be found in your town as well as explaining some of its history and heritage.
There are some fine buildings to be seen including the Church of Ireland St. Saviours Church
The Market Square area is very much at the heart of the town, The Altura Credit Union had excellent presentation with its fresh blue paintwork and nice overhead lamps. You are putting in a lot of effort in this area, maintaining planters, cleaning, sweeping in addition to litter picking, and for that you are to be commended. Some of the commercial premises that looked particularly well included SMG Fitness, the Cartoon Inn, and the lovely area through the arch on Market Street, as well as Jacobs Well, and Stirabout Lane with its vibrant pink paintwork amongst others.
There were unfortunately some vacant and derelict buildings to be seen throughout the town, many of which will hopefully be redeveloped and brought back into use, is it possible to talk to the County Council and the owners of these properties to see if it would be possible to paint them or carry out some work which would at least help with the visual appearance of these buildings?.
We note the difficulties you have in relation to the round pots on the main street and the plans to make the town a one way system, perhaps some discussion with the Local Authority will help integrate some landscaping into the new scheme to help with traffic management as well as visual amenity.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

he Parnell Memorial Park is a wonderful asset to have so close to the town centre and is obviously well used by those who live, work and visit the area.
Good work on all the ongoing maintenance you carry out on areas such as the Fairgreen Planters, Gilbert's Row rose bed, the beds at St. Colemans as well as the Lower Road aera and Ill Area landscaping. The town must look lovely in the Spring when all the Daffodils and other bulbs you plant come into bloom, if possible, it would be lovely to see some photographs of these as well as some of the other work that you carry out in your entry form. Make sure that you are including pollinator friendly plants as well as perennials in your scheme, and we note that you are making sure to make your mowing schedule pollinator friendly ensure sustenance being available for our bees and butterflies. You are making sure to keep your planting sustainable using planting from cuttings as well as saving seeds and plants that may otherwise be discarded, good work. It was saddening to hear about the arson that happened in the town and the Old Presbytery bed, hopefully this area will get a new lease of life under new ownership.

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

Wonderful news that you received a grant to help you prepare a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP), this will be an invaluable aid to help you protect the wealth of wildlife and biodiversity that already exists in the town and its environs. The notice of your launch of the Rathdrum Biodiversity Group was spotted on your Instagram feed, and we wish you the very best of luck with this and look forward to getting feedback on this initiative next year and how it is working. It is great that you are promoting a pesticide free environment as well as adhering to the "No Mow" policy and trying to raise education and awareness in relation to these issues. Do not lose heart over the lack of sightings of new nesting Swifts, this is a great initiative, and I am sure in time there will be new residents flocking to these nest boxes, hopefully there will be some positive news to report next year. Well done on the planting of new tress in Parnell Memorial Park and Playground to replace broken ones and for your work on maintaining the hedging at Union Lane as well as the grass near the Brewery Bends estate, these help with habitats and boosting biodiversity.

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

You are taking very practical measures in relation to sustainability and the circular economy. Many of your planting schemes incorporate plants that you have grown from cuttings or from reseeding, and you are also avoiding the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides, as well as not wasting any compost if left over and redistribute this elsewhere as needed. Good work on the 'pop up' bins during community events to help with cleaning and reduce litter. Do you practice rainwater harvesting to help conserve water, especially important as the impact of climate change is becoming all to evident during our hot summer this year.
We also noted your call out for poster free election campaigning to all candidates at previous elections to reduce waste as well as the visual clutter that these create.
Some other ideas you could look into in this category would be having 'swop shops' for preloved items such as old sports gear, books, clothes etc. and perhaps a little 'free library' where people can leave a book, they no longer want and take one they have yet to read. Also, you could engage with local cafes and restaurants about encouraging the use of 'keep cups or refilling water bottles to avoid the use of single plastic ones which often end up in landfill. There is also some very useful information in relation to energy efficiency and the various grants available on the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to be found at https://www.seai.ie/

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You are putting in a lot of effort in this category and are doing a good job, however there were a few black spots to be seen in the town (some rubbish just inside the entrance of Parnell Memorial Park and some bins overflowing outside of the Centra), possibly as a result of the fine weather encouraging people to be out and about a lot more. Your routine includes community litter picks and participation in the An Taisce National Spring Clean, and it is good to read that the rubbish resulting from this appears to be less than in previous years. Hopefully your ongoing campaign of creating awareness through your own social media as well as sharing posts from other organisations such as the Pure Mile project, Wicklow County Council etc.
Good work on the installation of the installation of several dog litter bins throughout the town to encourage pet owners to clean up after their pooches. The Recycling Bank area looked quite clean on the day that we visited bar one or two empty bags left behind, hopefully the No Dumping Sign is helping create awareness here.

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

There is a mix of house types to be seen in Rathdrum, with the newer residential estates, some lovely cottages as well as some fine townhouses in the core of the town. It's good to see that many of the housing estates have resident's committees that help them look after their areas and that they engage with Rathdrum Tidy Towns to help with carrying out projects and the presentation of their homes and surrounding areas. Hopefully the Community Biodiversity Action Plan will help with introducing more biodiversity in residential areas and help our habitats and wildlife. Perhaps a friendly competition with prized for best wildflower or meadow area, best pollinator garden etc. to help create awareness in the meantime. Many of the houses seen were well presented with attractive gardens, and there was a particularly beautifully presented house beside Gallery 5, with some gorgeous hanging baskets and window boxes. Some of the other estates visited included Avondale Meadows, Riverview Way, Parnell Park and The Woods.

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

You are doing good work here, no easy feat with the various entrances to the town and the hills, but this is paying off, and the approach roads looked very clean on the day that I visited, and credit to the TÚS Scheme workers for all the work that they do in this regard . And you are conscious of the need to keep some ‘wild’ areas along the verges to encourage biodiversity. There are some lovely stone walls to be seen, and you benefit from a beautiful setting along the Avonmore River and the lovely stone bridge. It is great to read that your engagement with Irish Rail has resulted in the repair and restoration of the old stone wall insteadof the less authentic solution originally mooted.

Concluding Remarks:

I had not been to Rathdrum before and really enjoyed seeing all the heritage and history to be found here and admire all the work that you are doing, and wish you well in all your future projects.