Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Roundwood - An Tóchar**	Ref:	**246**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**383**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**12/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	56	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	45	48
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	28	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	46
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**368**	**383**

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 including some lovely photographs and examples of the various leaflets and information along with your work in progress, greatly appreciated. You have very strong communications using a wide range of methods such as social media such as WhatsApp and Facebook as well as noticeboards and the beautiful posters advertising specific events looking for volunteers for native tree planting, litter picking, community clean ups designed by a very talented volunteer. The Welcome Wings Directory is a wonderful practical idea with a wealth of information on topics such as local community groups, the Men’s Shed, biodiversity as well as how to plant a pollinator friendly garden, fantastic work! It is heartening to hear that there is strong engagement with your local schools, and that hopefully their exposure to environmental issues and the need for us all to be more sustainable will create the leaders of the future in this area. And thank you for sharing the photographs of the gorgeous hand-crafted tiled mosaics at Roundwood bank, these were beautiful.

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

The majority of commercial premises were presented to a high standard, but ones that stood out included the Vartry House, Roundwood Pharmacy, The Roundwood Inn, the Coach House, and Bracken Fern which was most attractive with some trailing ivy and olive trees outside. Signage was excellent throughout the village and well maintained.
The Credit Union building was smart and neat looking, as was the Health Centre and the Garda Station building is very attractive
The Church of St. Laurence O’Toole Roundwood is a beautiful building and was immaculate with some bright blue/green bunting attached to the railings
Well done on the work at On Roundwood Bank and the planting of muscari, daffodils and heathers, and I absolutely loved the beautiful hand-crafted tiled mosaics which were made by local home-schooled children.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are some lovely planters and floral displays to be seen throughout the village creating a lovely streetscape with strong visual amenity, and you are ensuring the use of pollinator friendly planting. Great work on the Native Tree Planting Day which I have mentioned elsewhere, wonderful work and a great contribution to the village and eco system, and credit to you for the purchase of fruit trees (with some assistance from Wicklow County Council) which were planted at Djeuce Meadows Housing Estate.

Bertie's Triangle is a charming area and lovely introduction to your village.
The Grotto area was immaculate and beautifully presented with some subtle but very complementary planters installed. Synott's Corner was also looking very well as was the picnic area at Roundwood Bank, and the Ogham tree trail is lovely.

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

Roundwood is blessed with living in an area of Wicklow surrounded by nature, and wildlife as well as the wonderful Wicklow Hills. The Roundwood Biodiversity Group is working hard to protect this natural environment, and encourage biodiversity and promote pollinator friendly practices. An example of this is the great work done on managing the invasive Asian Hornet which was threatening native pollinators, and you were careful to make sure that this was managed correctly, as cutting or removing some invasive plants incorrectly can actually cause more damage as I am sure you are aware (for example Japanese Knotweed).
A lot of work is being done by you to educate and create awareness, and you have participated in events such as the Roundwood Agricultural Show, with an emphasis on pollinator -friendly planting, and are encouraging residents to attend educational talks on the care of plants and trees organised by Wicklow County Council. Well done on your native tree planting day at the Vartry Trails Carpark with a fantastic achievement of 400 trees planted by the community which will help habitats and the local ecosystem.
There is some excellent signage showing the area around the Roundwood Reservoir and the various trails around the Vartry along with information on how long the walks should take, difficulty level along with the types of wildlife and birds such as the Grey Heron that you might spy as you stroll. Congratulations are also in order for your placing in the Biodiversity Award in the Wicklow County Council Sustainable Development Awards, well done!

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

You are incorporating sustainability and the principles of the circular economy throughout all the work that you are doing. Some of the practical examples of this are the book exchange at the Parish Hall which gives a new lease of life to books to be bought or swapped, the Return bottle bank at the Centra along with the use of rainwater butts for water harvesting. The Junior Infants jumper swap is also a good practical example of this in action; clothes recycling is important as the rag trade is one of the biggest contributors to landfill. The Green Flag at St. Laurence O'Toole National School was also spotted, well done to the students and teachers involved with this.
We also not that the Men's Shed also use their skills to help repurpose or repair items that might otherwise be thrown away.
In addition to recycling or upcycling, you are aware that a fundamental principle is to reduce the consumption in the first place and kudos are due to focus on reducing waste in the first place as a priority and encourage the community to make environmentally mindful choices in the first instance. The 'Welcome Wings' directory is also an excellent example of this. Are residents of your community looking at ways to increase their energy efficiency? The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland have a wealth of information in relation to energy efficiency as well as the various grants available to both businesses and residential homeowners, and can be found at www.seai.ie

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Roundwood is a busy town in its own rights but also has a lot of through traffic so we understand the challenges in keeping it litter free and clean. You carry out regular litter picks and encourage as many members as possible of your community to participate (with the fantastic posters designed by one of your volunteers), and fantastic work to the amazing work by the local hero you mentioned who goes out in hail, rain or shine week after week, a wonderful show of community spirit.
Overall, you have done a very good job, but there were a few black spots unfortunately, no doubt due to the volume of people out enjoying our unusually hot summer. There were empty cups and snacks placed on top of the big bin near the Centra, as well as some empty drinks cans and snack wrappers on the main street. Well done on the work that you carried out at the Vartry Reservoir in tandem with your native tree planting day, this helps not only with visual appearance but also water quality which in turn helps the wildlife and habitats here. Your 'emergency' clean ups at beauty spots are to be commended, as you have mentioned, rubbish dumped if left to itself often multiplies but once taken in hand quickly this reduced the likelihood of other people following suit. Great work also being done by all the volunteers at the areas around Doyle Bank and the Cemetery in weed control to help the new growth establish itself.

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

There are some nicely presented modern town houses as you approach Roundwood from the Glendalough Road, as well as some charming cottages and housing estates and residential areas appeared to be well maintained and kept by residents, many with beautiful gardens and flowers on display.
At the new housing development across from Centra on the main street there is some good quality hard and soft landscaping with a lovely stretch of planting that including a lot of lavender that our pollinators love. There is still development ongoing but hopefully this will be completed soon as must be quite frustrating as well as impacting on accessibility in the area.
Great work on the purchase and planting of the fruit trees at Djouce Meadows housing estate. A mix of estates and residential areas were visited, Togher Pairc, which had some nice landscaping and, trees with a lovely stone name sign inserted into the stone wall, and Ashwood and Vartry Heights were also well maintained and cared for.

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

Well done on the work carried out at 'Bertie's Triangle' a very charming introduction to the village some lovely

planting as well as the newly installed bench which will only look even more charming once it has matured and the planting settled, and thanks to Luggala estate for sponsoring the plants and trees here. You have a lovely granite Welcome to Roundwood name sign which looks well, but I think has the potential to look even better with a small bit of cleaning and perhaps a splash of colour to make it stand out a bit. The ‘Pure Mile’ project is a fantastic initiative to help keep approach roads in between areas in Wicklow litter free and tidy and good work on your participation in this. Overall, the various approaches to Roundwood are well maintained and attractive with gorgeous green trees and foliage along with the traditional stone walls to be seen both on the approach and in your village, well done to all your volunteers as well as the TÚS workers involved.

Concluding Remarks:

It is always a pleasure to visit the lovely village of Roundwood and to see all the fantastic work that you are carrying out, and we wish you the best of luck with all your future projects.