Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Stratford-On-Slaney - Áth na Sráide**	Ref:	**849**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**380**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**07/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47	49
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	40	42
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	28	30
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	70	73
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	45	46
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**366**	**380**

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 fantastic photographs of the work that your Tidy Town’s group is carrying out. For a relatively small village, you have a healthy number of 6 on your committee along with up to 20 volunteers to help you with your work. You have strong engagement with a wide range of organisations, including statutory bodies, local businesses, schools and voluntary groups. Your communications include the use of social media such as Facebook, your recently established newsletter as well as monthly meetings. The children of the local national school and playschool also get involved, and this has resulted in a fantastic raised bed which includes hanging strawberry baskets, with a shout out to your local Men’s Shed for the work they have done to produce this using recycled beans and trellis. It is wonderful to read that you have been participating in the competition since 1963 and has helped given a goal to work towards as well as raised awareness in relation to issues such as biodiversity and litter management.
We are aware however that not everyone in the village is of the same mind in relation to one of your projects (the berms’ project. As the ethos of TidyTowns is one of collaboration, connection and inclusivity, we would encourage all TidyTowns groups to ensure there is dialogue and consensus within the community on the work that you carry out.

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

The 18th Century St. John the Baptist Anglican Church is a lovely building, and we wish you well with your fundraising efforts for repairs to the roof and other structural issues, and good work has been carried out at St. Mary’s Church and the Coach house areas.
It is great to see that your Community Café is now up and running and acts as the heart of your community with a wide range of activities which serve as a place of connection as well as a focal point for gatherings such as Tidy Town’s, Men’s Shed etc.
Your village includes good visual amenity with some lovely stone walls and fine tall lamp standards as well as the striking Coughlin Bell, and I liked the black traditional water pump being turned into a floral display.
The Stratford on Slaney sign with beautiful illustrations showing the local wildlife to be seen such as Foxes, Kingfishers, Natterers Bat etc with the Church in the background was lovely, and the main sign showcasing the history and heritage of your village was excellent and very informative.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You are to be commended for being awareness of the importance of using perennials and pollinator friendly planting in your schemes, including the cat mint that you have included in the triangular beds in the green.
You have also planted nine more trees in the village with the assistance of a grant, and good to see that this included native hawthorn and fruit trees to help with biodiversity and habitats. It appears that this is working, as you mention Harry the hedgehog as well as a visiting red squirrel who make regular appearances, along with the sighting of more wildlife than previously sighted.
Your landscaping includes upcycled items such as old agricultural water troughs and recycled window boxes. Your community garden is a great asset to your work, especially as you embark on growing plants and flower from seedlings.
As mentioned under the community category, we are aware that not everyone has been in favour of the 'Berms' project and I have decided not to comment or include that in my adjudication of the this category as do not want anything in the report to be seen as either an endorsement or criticism of this scheme and believe that future of this project needs to be resolved within the community.

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

Your village is fortunate to located in a very scenic part of Wicklow with plenty of green space and the rolling hills which encourage plenty of wildlife to be discovered in the environs of the area. It is great to see that the local school children are showing such interest in the environment around them and are excited to learn more about the various bugs, insects and other creatures to be found in the hedgerows and green spaces.
Well done on concentrating on the use of pollinator friendly plants and flowers in your scheme to provide nourishment for our bees and butterflies as well as encourage biodiversity. Good work also on the planting of the fruit trees and Espalier Apple tree to encourage pollination. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan website to be found at https://pollinators.ie/ has some very useful information to give some ideas in addition to the work that you are already carrying out. It is good to see that you have engaged with the Local Authority Water Program (LAWPRO) as you are a 'blue dot' area with excellent water quality, which is good not only for visual amenity but also helping promote healthy habitats for wildlife.

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

The Local Link buses are a lifeline in many areas of rural Ireland, so good to hear that your local service is helping with sustainable travel and facilitating those that do not drive, and that new bus stops have been approved. You are making good inroads into being more sustainable and embracing the circular economy. You have a good rainwater harvesting system in place, with 3 sources located at strategic points in the village and can travel quickly to water your various planting schemes with your little gator vehicle, as well as using it for power washing. You also have access to another source if needed from a farm building on the periphery of the village if needed.
You are also composting leaves to help provide nutrients for your planters and flowers.
That is great news that the community room centre has received planning permission to install solar plans to help be more sustainable (as well as economical), and the solar panels on the school crossing signs were noticed.
Has there been much investigation into energy efficiency for residential buildings? There is some very useful information in relation to sustainable issues, to found on the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland https://www.seai.ie/

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There was not a piece of litter seen on the day that I visited your village, so congratulations on this, I know that this doesn't happen by chance but requires dedicated work by volunteers to pick litter and keep an eye on what is happening on the ground.
The footpaths, and verges looked neat and clean and there appeared to be very good weed control. Good work is being done on maintaining and cleaning the various signs in the village. We note your plans to acquire a 'Billy Goat' machine in order to mulch leaves for compost, as the leaf cages had become problematic, it would be interesting to know what the issue with the leaf cages was, as these have been used very successfully in other areas.
It is great to read that you are engaging with the 'Pure Mile' project, this initiative in Wicklow appears to be gaining traction and helping to bridge the gap on roads between village to keep them litter free and creating a cohesive approach to tackling roadside dumping as well. You don't mention if you participate in the An Taisce National Spring Clean event, if not perhaps this is something that you could consider?

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

The majority of houses were very well presented, with some lovely older properties, many with beautiful mature gardens. The newer residential estates of Hillview, Slaney View Winetavern Manor were well maintained, with some nice trees at Winetavern manor and good green spaces. You are to be commended for helping a resident who needed some work done on their property, with assistance from members of the Men's Shed as well as volunteers, and for the washing of the apartments on Main St. Also, great work on doing what you can to minimise the visual impact of the derelict house as you are entering on the village until hopefully a buyer is found and it is brought back into use.

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

The vista as you approach your village is lovely with some fine traditional stone walls complemented by green canopies of mature trees, hedges and neat verges. All roads were clean and litter free and do not seem to be affected by the scourge of fly tipping, which is unfortunately quite prevalent in some rural areas, so well done. The classic black and white sign as you enter Stratford is excellent, very neat and clean with a planter full of flowers

underneath to add a splash of colour. You also follow the ‘NoMow’ principle to ensure that there is sustenance in early spring for our pollinators and preserve some ‘wild’ areas to help with biodiversity.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit your charming village and to see all the work that you are carrying out in your community and wish you all the best with your future endeavours.