Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Tinahely - Tigh na hÉille**	Ref:	**245**
County:	**Wicklow**	Mark:	**379**
Category:	**C**	Date(s):	**03/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	51	54
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	46	48
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	25	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	41
TOTAL MARK	**600**	**362**	**379**

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 a map and your 3-Year Plan. In addition to your 7 committee members you have a strong number of 20 volunteers to help you with your work. You have strong engagement with a wide variety of different organisations such as Wicklow County Council, the Men’s Shed, Pobal as well as many of the local businesses, and local clubs and community groups. It is great to read that you have built strong links with other Tidy Towns groups, including assisting Aughrim with their clean up after they were affected by flooding, great work! In addition, you make sure to include the younger members of your town with visits by your local primary schools to your Recycling Centre in order to raise awareness and education and are exploring the possibility of a junior Tidy Towns committee. Your communication strategy includes using a myriad of different mediums such as social media such as Instagram and Facebook as well as more traditional methods such as public meetings and posters. There is obviously a great sense of civic pride in your community and heartening to read that your involvement in the competition has helped not only with aesthetic improvements but also increased social engagement. It was lovely to see the various awards that you have received proudly displayed in the library window.

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

I loved the Welcome to Tinahely Mural, and its depiction of the various walking trails you can take as well as illustrations of some of the wildlife to be seen such as the Red Squirrel and Woodpecker. The QR code audio tour is a great idea for those that want to get some more information on the various sites of interest, and I erally enjoyed seeing the various pictures illustrating Tinahely in years gone by.

There are some fine buildings to be seen in the town, such as the Library building in the centre of the square, which acts as a focal point with some lovely planting and landscaping, and I really liked the vibrant yellow ‘Daffodil Day’ bench. The raised beds at Dwyer Square are gorgeous with the name stone and included some pollinator friendly planting such as lavender.

Some of the commercial premises that were particularly well presented included Madeline’s Accomodation, which had some beautiful floral displays, the An Post building, and the Riverside Business Centre which had some nice landscaping in front, and looked very smart following its recent revamp.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are plenty of green spaces to enjoy in the village and some excellent landscaping to be seen as I walked around, however, the jewel in the crown must be the Dwyer Square area which was an absolute delight full of

pollinator friendly perennial plants and beautiful flowers. Thank you for including the before and after pictures, and amazing to see what you managed to achieve from emptying the flower bed completely and then refilling it.
Great work on your Spring Bulb planting initiative, and it is fantastic to read that this was such a communal effort with people from all across your community coming to assist, with a very impressive figure of over 500 Daffodil, Tulip and Bluebells planted throughout the town, it must be a wonderful sight to see in Spring when they are all in bloom, and thank you for including photographs to showcase them. It is wonderful to read that there is such strong collaboration throughout the village, further evidenced by the work done at the Coolruss Community Pollinator bed with the emphasis on bio-diversity.
The Ballyrahan 1798 Memorial Cross looked fantastic with its refresh of gravel and planting. You are very conscious of the need for sustainability in your planting, especially with your emphasis on pollinator friendly planting and native species, as well as the fantastic work you are doing on transforming the village into a a bio-diversity corridor. You mention that all your stock is sourced locally to reduce your carbon footprint, however, beautiful as they are, 36 oak barrels along with other floral displays across the town must be very labour intensive, perhaps you can look at reducing this number slightly and focus more on planting to be even more sustainable.

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

You are showing strong dedication to enhancing the biodiversity within your village and environs through your choices of picking pollinator friendly planting, native trees and hedges as well as caring for your green spaces in ways that supports biodiversity and habitats. Your Strategic Pollinator Plan has clear targets and practical measures to achieve these such as the transition to perennial planting and the eradication of pesticides.
It is lovely to read that you are involving the younger members of your community and are engaging closely with your local national schools in relation to environmental work, a great way to ensure the future of the flora and fauna in the area. Wonderful work being done in relation to the Barn Owls and fantastic to read that that the National Parks and Wildlife Service have confirmed that there is an increase in their population, and praise to Tinahely Men's Shed for making the special Barn Owl nesting boxes. I was also impressed with the lovely Shrubwell Butterfly Bed which you constructed and is rich in plants such as Buddleia and Lupins amongst others in order to provide nutrients and a habitat for butterflies and other pollinators,

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

The Tinahely Community Recycling Centre is a very impressive achievement, a community founded and volunteer led recycling centre. A wonderful initiative to reduce the number of items going to landfill as well as providing a way of re purposing items through your 'Repair and Re-use' philosophy.
The work that you are doing with local schools in relation to water quality monitoring is commendable such as the 2022 River Derry Bubbles project and the 2023 UCD/CUPHAT project. We notice that you also use rainwater harvesting barrels which I was very glad to note given that you have a significant number of beautiful planting and floral displays to take over.
You also took part in DCU's Citizen Science Water Blitz, which included testing the water quality in the River Derry, and it will be very interesting to read the results of these when they become available.
Given rising costs and issues in relation to energy supply I was interested to read that there are Home Energy testing kits available at the library for people to rate their efficiency and how best to be more sustainable. I am sure that you are well aware that 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 this can be found at www.seai.ie.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Tinahely looked very clean and practically litter free on the day that I visited, no doubt due to the ongoing daily litter patrols carried out by your CE Scheme workers along with the work by Tidy Towns volunteers.
Well done on your participation in the National Spring Clean initiative, it seems to have been a huge success with participation by a large cohort of your community. This resulted in collection of an impressive 40 bags of rubbish which were then segregated and recycled if possible. Your 3-year Plan is very strategic in trying to prevent litter happening as well as clean it up. This includes awareness raising and developing education programmes with the local authority and schools etc, anti-littering signage as well as social media campaigns and encouraging people to take ownership in relation to litter and recycling. You also work with the Pure Mile initiative and are promoting recycling and composting as well as more smart bins, great work.

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

There is a varied mix of residential units in the town from townhouses, cottages to more modern residential estates. There were some very attractive houses to be seen on Barton Street, with some vibrantly painted with window boxes or hanging baskets to further enhance them. The majority of houses seen were presented to a high standard and well maintained, and it is commendable that Tidy Towns and residents' groups work hand in hand to keep residential areas looking well through upkeep of boundary walls and gates, weeding, grass cutting as well as care of kerbs etc. You are also conscious of being sustainable through the provision of composting bays in several housing estates as well as maintenance of the Community Orchard in Kilcommon View, and the local playground.

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

Concluding Remarks:

It is quite a while since I last visited your beautiful village and it was a pleasure to see all the work that is being carried out as well as read about your future plans, and wish you the best of luck with your endeavours.