

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Artane - Ard Aidhin** Ref: **1187**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **297**
Category: **E** Date(s): **06/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	30	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	23	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	44	45
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	30	31
TOTAL MARK	600	284	297

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. Welcome Artane to the 2026 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. This is just you're fourth year entering and it is great to see you setting more long-term goals, like you say it will provide direction over the coming years.

Being inclusive as a community helps everyone feel welcome, respected and valued. It will build strong trust and help the group grow together in a positive way.

Having only 3 committee members to lead 68 volunteers can be hard. However, letting volunteers suggest ideas helps a lot. It keeps people active and shares the work. Literally it sounds like you have subgroups and you let volunteers who suggest an activity lead that activity which is a great way to help the group succeed.

The group networks with many other TT's groups, DCC, local businesses and groups which is highly beneficial. Communication caters for all ages and your newest initiative is your Artane Tidy Group.com website which we see will be launched soon.

We favourably acknowledge public educational talks which are widely publicised as part of your raising awareness and education strategy and are praiseworthy.

Though you do not have a specific Junior Tidy Towns you have put particular effort into developing your relationship with two national schools this year. Supporting them with form filling, bulb and tree planting, their Green Flags, litter picking and now they have a relevant contact with the council- excellent.

A special focus this year has been placed on Artane Place with a makeover at an industrial entrance which is looking very smart indeed. A living wall and a biodiversity softens the harsh façade and will spark community interest in local ecosystems. It is important to remember living walls need regular watering and plant care. Take a look at it in the autumn and replace any plants that did not make it through the summer with local plants that will survive the regional weather. Many thanks to Xestra Management and DCC for funding.

We are thrilled to hear the residents of Artane have enjoyed participating in the competition and playing their part in one of Ireland's largest sustainability competitions. It is all about building trust, sharing with people how the competition works, keeping it simple and achievable, focus on the benefits and keep a few surprises!

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

Winning streetscape Awards is laudable and helps the community build confidence. This will encourage residents to take on bigger projects together and we are delighted your hard work has paid off. Hands-on actions such as removing graffiti, painting walls, picking up litter, installing bug hotels and planting bulbs are wonderful ways to improve public spaces and will make people feel proud of where they live. Many shop owners and companies want to support your work and we offer our thanks to them for caring about how the area looks. We admired several nice

planting displays.

Your planned annual audits of street signage will help you find old, confusing and broken signs. It can typically take a long time for them to be replaced as local authorities handle high volumes of maintenance requests so keep these followed up on.

The clothes pod was ruining the visual look of the Malahide Road and you are working on improving the aesthetics. Trees steal moisture from most flowering plants but spring bulbs pop up early before the tree grows thick leaves. Tough woodland favourites like primroses, hellebores or epimediums are great choices to help bees and bugs. The living wall is just settling in and we feel some plants may get too big but the ferns, catmint, vinca, erigeron and euonymus work well together presently – it will be trial and error to see what works. The black planters as we head towards the back of Artane Place would be better if they got a fresh coat of paint and pollinator plants added like catmint and calendulas.

At the park entrance we admire the small library and a notice to listen to the birds, feel the breeze, read a book and relax. Attaching a blue flower filled recycled bicycle against the black railing instantly turns it into a charming, eye-catching outdoor feature.

Featuring the historical milestones creates another notable visible marker on the Malahide Road and gives the towns a unique identity.

St. John Vianney Church is a striking modern design and presents well.

The Artane roundabout has been painted and safety comes first so liaise with DCC to come up with the best nature-based solution. A simple ground cover is a safe landscaping idea.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The new willow tunnels are magical, interactive play features for children in the park. Because they are crafted from living plants, they will transform dramatically over the seasons, offering a sensory experience all year round. The workshop has allowed people to discover the satisfaction of making something beautiful with their own hands.

We commend the planting of early flowering and nectar rich bulbs in several locations around the town, which you mention, will create a vital spring food buffet for hungry bees and emerging pollinators when other food sources are scarce. Planting year on year will create a stunning, natural carpet of flowers that will return every spring. Best for naturalising are snowdrops, crocuses and bluebells. We note planting of native bluebells at Montrose. Their arrival is an eagerly awaited seasonal event in many parts of the country and the blooms draw large numbers of nature lovers and families out for seasonal strolls – something to look forward to.

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

We note your first steps have been taken on your new Biodiversity Plan for the town which will give you a clear focus and prevent wasted effort on unsuited projects, plus it will help you secure funding. Networking with other TT's groups is very helpful as they are experienced and they have the local knowledge about grant aid.

Involving the next generation in planting is wonderful. It teaches them about nature and helps them care for the environment. Offer them some designs for smaller spaces like square foot gardens, container herb pots or mini orchards that fit into concrete school yards. Partner with a local business so the school pays nothing.

The grounds of St. John Vianney provides a peaceful green space and sets a great example with their pocket forests. Requiring an area as small as a single parking bay it is very manageable for parishioners to plant native Irish bare root trees and create pocket forests of their own at home.

The use of information signage and messaging about biodiversity is important to educate everyone – an empty patch of grass can be turned into a learning tool. Many thanks for all your lovely photographs throughout – they bring activities to life. Any monitoring of bees/butterflies – I am including a link to a short video to show you how to do the FIT count (<https://pollinators.ie/videos/>).

It is great to hear you continue to attend lots of workshops and courses which will build your knowledge and your understanding of future nature plans.

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

Working as green as possible this year saw the installation of a water butt in the church grounds. A standard barrel holds hundreds of litres free for dry weeks and is an initiative that is surging in popularity following this summer's prolonged dry spells. Consider distributing starter rain barrels at a discount through community clean-ups events and run educational campaigns.

Growing your own plants from seeds collected sounds exciting – tell us more in next year's entry.

The Swap Shop Kit is proving to be quite a hit as more clothes swap events are planned for this year. We do have a textile crisis and a poster campaign or a fashion show using second hand clothes would highlight the problems with fast fashion.

An attendance of over 60 people was a great achievement for your Decluttering and Circular Economy event in the autumn.

Many other maintenance projects are noted in this category. The group demonstrates a good understanding in your efforts. Even small steps help if you keep doing them. Well done.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Fortnightly litter patrols are the norm and other members undertake ad-hoc litter picks in between. Litter hot spots are very common with retail zones and bus stops common locations. Lack of bins may be a gap in infrastructure but quite often they are not the total solution as they can become a dumping ground for household waste and can overflow so we need to encourage a 'Take Home' ethos as individuals should take their waste home rather than relying on the Local Authority. Put up friendly and bright anti-litter signs, talk to local schools and shops. Keep track of what type of litter is the most regularly collected so it can be targeted in an anti-litter campaign. Promoting 'adopt

a stop' is another great initiative.

Participating in Team Dublin Clean-up is creditworthy. Soon to be launched is the anti-cigarette butt campaign so keep us updated. We understand it is a huge task for volunteers and we sincerely thank everyone who takes part in litter picking, weed and vegetation control and general maintenance. You are managing utility boxes nicely with colourful murals and we are glad to hear some service poles have been painted. All these actions contribute positively to the neat appearance of the neighbourhood. On adjudication day we found the standard achieved was good. Very well done.

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

Building a relationship first is widely considered the best approach to engage residents in the group's activities and you have welcomed new estate committees which will bring fresh ideas and build a stronger voice for local needs. Listen to what they love about their area and pick a fast win like a kid's event, BBQ or clean up morning. Popular workshops include energy saving retrofits, gardening and composting and DIY. Competitions such as 'Best Kept Estate' are generally good but you could start with a small project like best Pollinator Patch, vegetable plot, best window box or mini habitat. Residential areas were well presented overall.

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

Attractive landscaped welcome signage creates a friendly first impression. Yes, they take regular work to look good, including weeding, watering and seasonal planting but they look great. Keeping cycle way and road verges well maintained is noteworthy. Castleview Walk has attracted anti-social behaviour and we hope you are successful in funding for a Creative Spaces project at this location. We congratulate DCC for all the work carried out and helping the group meet its goals.

Concluding Remarks:

We feel you have the energy to fix up more areas and we hope you are ready to plan more events. Do checkout the Tidy Towns Handbook to get even more inspiration. The support of DCC is adding real value and it just shows what can be accomplished when everyone works together. We are grateful to everyone for their willingness to give their time as we know it is a lot of work. Wishing you all the best for 2027 and keep up the great work.