

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Baldoyle - Baile Dúill** Ref: **2108**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **335**
Category: **E** Date(s): **14/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	41	44
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	30	32
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	600	319	335

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2026. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhuir n-iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta agaibh in bhuir gceantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhúir dtionscadail amach anseo.

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition and thank you for your application form, map, and accompanying document. Your committee of seven is assisted by up to twenty volunteers, which truthfully is very little for a town of your size, so well done on all your work. You have had a number of public events and hopefully, having more such as these will encourage some additional volunteers if only for one or two projects. You list a large number of agencies, etc. who support your activities including the local schools. Perhaps arrange a few activities for the local schools where parents will also be invited and maybe from this additional volunteers are found. There are quite a number of organisations who assist community groups in funding for community projects, and we hope that you are availing of these. Your notice board in Seagrang Park was noted which invited the community for suggestions and ideas. When we visited one of the glass panels had been broken, which was unfortunate. Hopefully this is something that doesn't happen too often. You have participated in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition for the past five years. We see that your involvement has supported the steady progress in tree and floral planting. These will become more and more important as our climate changes. With your community engagement, you are encouraging others to be mindful of the environment. Well done on your awards – excellent for a community group which is fairly newly established. Good to see that you celebrate with your community in a BBQ to which all are invited

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

With a population of almost 7,000 you are a large community. Located between the railway line and the sea your village centre is quite compact and contains all a community needs – shops, schools, library, medical facilities, community centre, church, pubs, etc. In addition you have your wonderful village green with its new cast iron Victorian bandstand. This needs to be painted shortly as rust is coming through. It's always good when a new business opens in a village centre and we were delighted to see that Dublin Bay Café has been recently restored and is now an important part of community life. There is a great variety of architecture in the village from single-story vernacular houses to two-storey modern buildings. We are delighted to say that all sit comfortably side-by-side. The businesses in the village were well presented and many had colourful hanging baskets, with a mix of annual and perennials, which added to the streetscape. We liked the post and chain fencing around the small green area of the village centre. The posts will need to be painted shortly. It's good to see that you hold events in this central area of your village as this will encourage participation from new residents. The piers to the entrance to the park from Seacliff Avenue are very beautiful. The poem, cleverly positioned on two sides of the pillar, in a scripted copper tone, and the silhouettes of the native birds are eye catching. Well done on the new sculpture of

Livingstone's Balloon Landing – an important part of your social history is now celebrated. We also admired the murals on the various buildings particularly the one at the tunnel entrance at Seagrang Park and also the one at the junction of Red Arches Road. Some are in need of refreshing.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

In addition to the Village Green with its lovely new bandstand, you have two very large green spaces in Baldoyle – Seagrang Park and Baldoyle Racecourse Park. We were delighted to see that we could walk around one, cross over the road, and then walk around the other. These are wonderful facilities for your community. When we visited, they were both well used by runners, dog walkers, and those returning from work who had used the DART. There are some fine, well planted beds along approach roads, and in the town and parks, which we admired. The planting beds at the entrance from Parkvale along with the wildflower planting along the path were alive with butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. We also admired the planting along the pedestrian entrance to Moyclare Road – although this bed needs some attention. The two raised planters in this area were a little sad and should have colourful plants or should be removed. The interlocking brick surround of the unmown area under the trees in the small green area in the village centre was in a poor condition. This is a lovely idea to enclose an unmown area but you need to repair it. The managed for wildlife sign also needs attention. We noted some areas – walls – which would benefit from planting. Where long lengths of brick / rendered walls exist along footpaths in your town, they are ideal locations for plants such as ivy, pyracantha, honeysuckle, wisteria etc. We recommend that you do a survey of the town and where brick/ rendered walls exist to begin a planting strategy. A tiny opening in the pavement is all that's needed to insert a plant.

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

In addition to your parks, trees, hedgerows and stone walls, with wonderful habitats of value for nature and biodiversity, you also have the Mayne River with its tributaries flowing into the wonderful Baldoyle Estuary. The tide was out when we visited and so we saw your varied sea bird population foraging on the mud flats. Good that you have some panels along the wall so that the names and features of the birds can be noted by the passer-by. You'll have to add a heron to the list as one was present when we visited. We read on the NPS website that the estuary is a Nature Reserve for winter wading birds such as black-tailed Godwits, Redshanks and Curlews and also for visiting Brent Geese. It has the designation of an SAC and SPA so it is recognised internationally. We suggest that you invite the NPWS ranger to give a series of talks to highlight the importance of this Bay. We also recommend that you soon undertake the production of a Biodiversity Plan. For this, you must engage a professional, but in the meantime as a community voluntary group, we suggest that you record and investigate what's around you. Seagrang Park is quite wonderful. We loved the wet area and its surrounds and also the meadows with the pathways mown for access. There are some great mature trees on the perimeter, and we noted the newly planted trees in the park itself. We recommend a line trees be planted on both sides of the path north of the tennis club so as to create a canopy for pedestrians and also roosting, feeding etc sites for birds and insects. As we walked through Seagrang Park we heard a variety of birdsong – goldfinch, sparrow, robin, magpie, jackdaw, coot and of course herring gull. Compliment on the calendar – we noted the July beach clean-up day and also planting and clean-up day – and July's photo of the heron was quite beautiful. Well done on all you did for the school's Baldoyle's Biodiversity Day. With such a success, hopefully this is something you will now undertake annually? Wonderful that your Hawthorne hedge has bloomed this year and we are delighted that this native hedgerow planting is to be continued.

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

When this category was introduced some years back community groups were confused and now they are all aware that it just means being alert to how we use the resources of the planet. Small actions that we undertake daily can make a difference. We see that you deliver a range of projects using donated materials. The workshop which you undertook with the children during the school's Baldoyle's Biodiversity Day which culminated with children making their own schoolbag decorations, using wood cookies and twine, was a lovely idea. From this, the children learned they don't need to go to a shop and buy a school bag decoration. A win-win for all. Your approach to your work in the improvement of public spaces is admirable – enhancement using reused, recycled or donated materials. It was very good of the resident to give you the bird boxes for Seagrang Park. Your fruit trees are growing well, but just remove the grass for about a metre around the base and apply mulch. Fruit trees feed mainly on the nutrients in the topsoil and will struggle to compete with grass for nutrients. Interesting to see that you had a Foraging Day in Baldoyle's Racecourse Park – the QR code for registering attendance was a good idea. Do you know what the local coffee shop/pubs/shops do with the coffee grinds? Encourage them to make them available for the public for their compost or to sprinkle around acidic-loving plants such as blueberries, roses, azaleas or hydrangeas. Is there a community garden in Baldoyle? This is something that's becoming more and more popular. It is something that we would encourage you to begin and here you could have the Baldoyle Tidy Towns polytunnel, leaf cages, compost area, etc. where the community could gather and learn about planting vegetables and flowers. There are many projects that you could undertake in this category - please consult the Tidy Towns handbook for ideas

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We assume you take part in the All Ireland An Taisce Spring Clean Event? If not please register for this next year. This is a wonderful way for the whole community to be alerted to litter and fly-tipping. When your volunteers are seen in their high viz vests, it focuses the attention of the whole community and indeed on visitors on the need to be vigilant on litter, fly-tipping and weed growth. In a town as large as Baldoyle it is difficult to maintain it litter free. But we are delighted to report that when we visited it was fairly clean and litter free. Weed growth along footpaths, road edges, wall bases etc. was noted. Truthfully, this is a complaint we would have for many large towns. Where there is

a kerb the weed and grass growth should be removed so that the kerb is visible. A shovel and a stiff brush used in the late spring is crucial to keep this growth at bay. Some of the murals are a little worn and need a little touch-up e.g. the ones in the tunnel to the Dart station. We see that you plan to erect additional signage. We recommend that you plan this well in advance and approach it in a coordinated manner and not install them in a piecemeal manner. Remember signage is clutter and can detract from a landscape or streetscape so a coordinated approach is crucial. Also remember that when you install them, you must maintain them and keep them clean so that they are legible. Another job to add to your list.

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

We loved the mix of the vernacular single and two-story houses located in the village centre and along the approach roads. Some houses had been painted along with their roadside boundaries and looked very well. It was good to see that the majority were occupied as vacancy leads to dereliction in a very short space of time. Some gardens were well-designed and attractively planted with a variety of pollinator friendly, flowers and shrubs. There are a great number of housing estates in Baldoyle, primarily located north and south of the busy R139 (Grange Road), some of which we visited. The majority had a name stone or sign which was good to see. Unfortunately, some were hidden or slightly hidden behind planting. Needless to say planting – flowers or shrubs – should be placed to the rear and sides of estate name signs, or low ground cover flowers/ shrubs can be used in front as long as they don't encroach on the name. It was good to see that quite a lot of the communal open spaces had trees. Trees are important features in the landscape and streetscape and we recommend that those communities which are lacking trees are advised of their value. Trees are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. By planting and caring for trees, you help reduce pollution, improve your surroundings, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food roosting sites and nesting sites for birds.

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

You are located on the busy but beautiful R106 (Strand Road) and your village is at the junction with the R139 (Grange Road). When we visited there was quite a lot of traffic on both of these roads but on your minor roads the traffic volume was negligible. The approach roads are well maintained and we noted that the town name signs are clearly visible to the oncoming motorists. We noted and admired new dipped paving with rumble strips at some of the road junctions. Is this the plan for all of your road junctions? In addition to warning those who are visually impaired they also facilitate those who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters and those pushing buggies. What was the outcome of the Mapping Baldoyle workshop? Have you produced a map with all the green spaces and walkways? This will be a great asset to those who walk and run for pleasure. The new path through the Village Green is excellent. We admired the surface and also the low white kerb. It will be important to trim the grass to the kerb to this to keep this area looking good. There was a lot of weed growth on the cobblelock paving around the Village Green. As this area is now important to you, it must be kept weed free. The Baldoyle - Sutton promenade and the Baldoyle – Portmarnock Greenway are an amazing asset to your village and were well used when we visited.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition ... we have a recommendation for 2027

- Please BRIEFLY describe your Key Project as requested in the community category. We will then read about it in the category where it is most suited.
 - It would be good if instead of an essay type answer for each category, you would make bullet points. Projects can be numbered as New (N1, N2, N3 etc.) or Maintained (M1, M2, M3 etc.) and these numbers are then transferred to your map. This will make your application clearer for the adjudicators.
 - We suggest that it is time for you to make a Five-Year Plan for Baldoyle. You don't need any help to do this as you know your town best. It need not be very long; just projects and actions that you can undertake in each category. For some, you will need collaborators e.g. Fingal Co Co, Waterways Ireland, NPWS etc. so add their name after the project. In addition, a member of the committee should take responsibility for the action/ project so that it advances in a timely fashion. His/her name to be added too.
 - Next year fill the A4 page with your map ... it'll make it easier for the adjudicators to locate the projects.
- We wish to state that this is not a criticism of your work but to explain to you that as adjudicators we rely on a clear application form and accompanying map to inform us of your projects and make our visit rewarding. We would appreciate if these points could be taken into consideration when preparing your 2027 application. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Baldoyle – we have passed through the town many times, so it was a pleasure to take the time and visit the surrounding roads and see the riches there.