

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Balrothery - Baile an Ridire	Ref:	872
County:	Dublin	Mark:	334
Category:	C	Date(s):	22/06/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	31	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	25	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	44	46
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	40
TOTAL MARK	600	315	334

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. Balrothery is welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2026. Thank you for your application and map. As always, it is a pleasure to visit this beautiful town and see the projects that you are completing to develop and enhance the whole area. There is a committee of five and a large number of volunteers who hold regular meetings and online communication with the community. The committee also attend meetings of the County Council, which helps then with the development of the town. You are also involved with active travel and the aim is to improve safety in the town, which will include pedestrian crossings, hopefully completed this year. Future projects also include a greenway between Balrothery and Ard Gillan Park, which will make it safer for the community, as the road is not safe for walking on. All new residents to the area are welcome to come along and join and help out with the various projects. It is a great way for them to get to know their neighbours. There is ongoing support and advice from the County Council and all other agencies for the various projects undertaken by the Tidy Towns group. Communication to the wider community on your activities is done through social media, newsletter and notice board. There is ongoing interaction between the Tidy Towns and the school, particularly with planting projects, which is a brilliant idea. There is also a Junior Tidy Towns group who help out in activities at the community garden and also help with litter picking. Taking part in the competition has greatly helped the community to think more about the environment as well as keeping the town neat and tidy.

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

The town is rich in heritage and thankfully that is one of your aims, to retain this heritage. There's also a mix of other buildings, including more modern builds of housing estates to accommodate an ever increasing population, all blending together and bringing their own character to the streetscape. The tower house, one of your oldest heritage buildings, thankfully has been acquired by a group of local people and a plan for permission has been sought to restore the building, as part of the built heritage conservation. The Heritage Centre is another one of your important buildings which is being used by local groups on a daily basis. This building is also needing repair, and funding has been applied for to do this repair work, with work hopefully commencing shortly. The Community Centre and the Community Garden area is a relatively new building. This building is used by a lot of groups but in particular the Tidy Towns play a big part in the maintenance and upkeep of it. This is an important building for the community where all members can come and enjoy different classes or meetings in this area. The Community Garden in particular is receiving ongoing funding for its further development. The National School too, is looking well after its building work, ready for the new school year. The businesses of the town all bring their own brightness and colour to the landscape, particularly the Balrothery Inn, which is an important amenity for social recreation for the town. Other

businesses such as the Spar Shop, Chemist and all other amenities are looking well and are important for the town. The thatched houses, which are also part of the town's heritage, are well maintained and are a splendid feature for the tourism of the town. Recreation for the town can be enjoyed at Glebe Park, which is one of your major projects and continues to develop.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Landscaping is a notable feature in the town. One cannot enter Balrothery, particularly at the graveyard embankment, but notice the spectacular landscaping, its location and the superb background Heritage building. This sets the tone for a lot of the landscaping noted throughout the town and your choice of plants and variety of colour. Another area of good landscaping noted which includes colourful pollinator plants, is Bridie's Patch. This, together with the hard landscaping of the art piece, really stands out. More colourful landscaping was noted at the businesses of the town. They do their part to ensure the town is bright and colourful.

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

The town is rich in biodiversity, and you continue to manage and protect this with the planting of wildflower areas at entrances to the town. Glebe Park also has maintained its natural surroundings of hedging and trees with more fruit trees and pollinator-friendly plants being added on a continuous basis. The tree trail at the park is a great educational tool for the children to learn more about trees. The Oak Tree Project is also very special, with acorns collected from the main tree, which is 350 years old, and sowed and transplanted to different locations. Fruit trees are also an important feature at the community orchard in the park. The construction of a pond at the park has included more nature for the community to learn about and enjoy. The community are encouraged to appreciate wildlife and natural habitats. Hosting walks and talks is an important thing to do. The park, where there is a lot of activity and a lot of recreational facilities, is an ideal place to hold such events.

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

Groups are encouraged to make their areas more sustainable by their activities. The town are already doing projects in this area with their rainwater harvesting from the roof of the community centre, which is a help for watering plants and other tasks. There are also seed sowing and propagation of flowers and vegetables and this is another way of making the area more sustainable and reducing costs. The town is also engaged in the active travel scheme, which will ensure more accessible lanes for cycling, walking and pedestrian crossings, helping to make the area safer. There is a greater saving on energy with the installation of solar panels to more homes and particularly businesses, with a grant available to community groups helping them with this. Reusing and recycling are also very popular with all groups, with the return scheme success, highlights its importance. Do continue to document all projects in this area as otherwise they might go unnoticed.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town continues to hold the national spring clean, which helps to create awareness and gets more people involved in keeping the town neat and tidy. This work is done in conjunction with Fingal County Council, who supplies litter pickers and litter bags to the volunteers. The children and the wider community get involved in all of those litter picks. The businesses of the town are also responsible and look after their own areas. Dog walkers are encouraged to clean up after their pets and make sure and keep the area clean. The graveyard is also included in your remit even though Fingal County Council are responsible for its upkeep. It is important for people visiting graves to bring home with them any items that are no longer useful and not dump in the area. This is essential for all graveyards across the country.

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

Like most towns and villages, Balrothery has grown in size to accommodate a growing population. This has included a number of housing estates built in the area. The building stock of the town has all blended together, bringing its own charm and character to the streetscape. The houses along the approach roads have well painted facades, good landscaping and neat gardens. This includes the attractive Thatched Houses. The housing estates have all good entrance signs, green areas, and good landscaping. It is good to see that they are adopting a similar planting scheme as the village, with more pollinator friendly plants being included in their landscaping. The children's play area, which would entice any child to come along to play, includes superb surroundings for the parents and is very well maintained. The residents are commended on the work they do in presenting their homes to such a high standard and also for their help with other projects throughout the town.

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

The approach roads to the town give a very good welcoming feel, with neat verges, while also allowing an area for wildlife to flourish. Wildflower areas of landscaping were admired along with trees and hedging, making the boundary of the town very attractive. Entrance signs are good and bollards are very well painted. Footpaths and road surfaces are generally good, but you are lobbying with the council to improve all amenities for safer and better travel.

Concluding Remarks:

Balrothery, as always, was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. Great work has been done to improve all amenities and facilities within the town, making it a better place for people to live in and visit. You have more projects in the

pipeline that will help to restore heritage buildings and also provide further facilities, particularly in the area of travel. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.