

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Blackrock - An Charraig Dhubh	Ref:	167
County:	Dublin	Mark:	369
Category:	D	Date(s):	16/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	52
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	34	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	22	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	46	47
TOTAL MARK	600	346	369

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 to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2026. Thank you for participating in Ireland's longest-running environmental project and helping to make Ireland a better place. We really appreciate all the great work that you do and the effort you put in, year on year.

Thank you very much for your entry this year. This was very detailed, well-illustrated with plenty of photographs and easy to follow. You have a small committee for an area of your population, but it is obviously a very active one! You also manage a really large volunteer team, so this is very impressive. It is noteworthy how many other organisations are involved with your efforts. These include scouts the community men's shed, businesses and IPAS residents. Altogether, this gives you a very formidable team indeed! Among your projects are green dog walking, community clean-ups and training. Very good. It is good to read how well supported your group is by other agencies including local businesses. It is good to read also that the local authority is a useful partner of yours. It is important that local schools are also part of the Tidy Towns picture, so do please try and get them involved. The specific project that you have identified for particular effort this year is the repainting of seats in the Carysfort Avenue car park. You have been involved with Tidy Towns for nearly 20 years now and we are delighted to have you on board.

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

Thank you for all the details of the Blackrock living streets project. This will mean many improvements to the public realm. Indeed, these works were well underway when we arrived to do our adjudication. It will make a big difference to your main areas and those adjoining. Thank you for the details that you provided on your many beautiful and historic buildings. We appreciate that many of these are protected structures and it is good to see you list these. Amongst your tasks this year were removal of graffiti, planting and maintenance of beds at the Dart station and a litter pick at Bath Place here you also carried out a substantial clean-up cutting back shrubs. Away from the practical tasks you were also involved with the creation of a new map along with the Blackrock business Association. Very good. It is great to see that the kiosk in the park is now enjoying a new life. The new benches that now grace your streets look very well. There are so many businesses that contribute positively to the streetscape of your village, it is impossible to list them all here. However, some of the standouts are given below. This is by no means an exhaustive list, so if we have not mentioned your business here apologies – lots of you looked so well! Nordic elements was a new premises to us, as was the bear market. Jack O'Rourke's pub is a lovely building, but the hanging sign is in need of attention. Parlour was new to this adjudicator, as was Conway's. It was great to see lots of outdoor seating areas and students were taking advantage of these on this sunny day. Tonnta Studio really

caught the eye and Macken's Pharmacy looked as good as ever.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Thank you for the high level of detail on all of your parks and green spaces. It is heartening to read that you appreciate that your postal area is of such high importance. Indeed, it is of national and international importance in terms of biodiversity, but more on that block. Your work this year included weed control without the use of herbicides planting, painting and clean-ups in these parks. We were somewhat disappointed by the standard of on-street planting. There was box after box of single-species – usually heather- and many were completely desiccated. We would encourage you to sit down with the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown horticultural team and look to see if you could develop a planting plan for the village centre. This should include plants for pollinators. This county council is very progressive when it comes to biodiversity, so we feel that you will be pushing an open door! Best of luck.

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

As you have mentioned previously in your entry your area includes a portion of the Dublin Bay UNESCO biosphere. This includes shoreline mudflats and Saltmarsh. Dublin is unusual in having such a rich resource for biodiversity on its doorstep and it is great to see that this is appreciated. You start your entry with a photograph from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and the adoption of this plan by groups such as yours is a key step on our common biodiversity journey. Thank you for your account of the bird and bat boxes in various locations. You have done your bit to protect your coastline with beach clean-ups. You have also worked in conjunction with clean coasts and this is important too. We would recommend that for Carysfort and Rockfield parks that you work with organisations such as Birdwatch Ireland and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in order to create signage that is relevant to these areas. General signage typically does not attract interest or generate sufficient attention.

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

Thank you for the information that you have supplied in this category. This included your attendance as a decarbonisation plan workshop. You list a number of the ideas that were demonstrated at this. You also tell us that you are entering the greenways and active travel award for the first time – Best of luck! We can see that you are in good contact with both the Blackrock and Frascati centres. Here they are moving towards sustainability in a number of ways. These include solar PV systems, electric vehicle charging and the adoption of the return deposit return scheme. You have given us here a very detailed account of the active travel and waste management facilities in Blackrock, thank you. It is good to read that Panda Waste is supportive of your work and supplies general waste and recycling for you as a group. And well done for using Facebook as a means of getting your message out there. Next year, please let us know about any dedicated activities of your own Tidy Towns group in terms of promoting sustainability.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thank you for all the details that you have supplied in this category. This was very helpful. This included the issues that you have reported to the county council and some of the issues that you meet on a day-to-day basis. Well done for joining the Green Dog Walkers in a built-up area good management of dogs and their waist is so important. You segregate your litter and collect countless cigarette butts. It is hoped that these may one day be a thing of the past. You also remove gum waste, unwanted posters and stickers, cable ties and graffiti. There is no doubt that you are a very busy group. Well done for your work with the Scouts for Spring clean 2026. We understand that cleaning and weeding without chemicals can be tiring and tedious work but please be assured that it is very much appreciated. We did note graffiti as being an issue in some places (e.g. near the Dart station and on some of the smaller streets).

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

Thank you for the level of detail that you have supplied in your description of your area. It is indeed a fascinating and historic part of County Dublin. We are pleased to hear that you link with existing Residents Associations. This is vital in an area such as this. We understand that Blackrock, like so many areas in Dublin and beyond is changing. We all acknowledge the need for new housing and apartment building is going to be a key part of the process. We would therefore encourage you to make as many alliances as you can with the residents of new housing developments as they become occupied.

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

Thank you for all the work that went into your description of the approaches to Blackrock. The adjudicator (once upon a time) used to work in Blackrock and live nearby. It was a pleasure to return along these roads and streets. There are many changes from those days and many of those are positive. Some of these are still underway with new pavements and public realm being created as this has been written. A renewed approach to the village from the Dart Station is long overdue and we look forward to this. Indeed, our visit to Blackrock this summer started at the station and we walked from there. We did note quite a bit of graffiti unfortunately. We also acknowledge that there is building work here and it is difficult to manage things in the midst of that. A bicycle rack did not exist back in my day and a very well used one is there now! We also noted the electric vehicle charger, which were not even dreamt of then! The Blackrock living streets mural is a lovely addition. We acknowledge here your contribution to keeping pathways and laneways neat and tidy and free of vegetation.

Concluding Remarks:

It was lovely to be back in Blackrock, after all these years. It is great to see so many positive changes. We have no doubt that as you approach your 20 year anniversary in Tidy Towns you will be playing a key role in yet more.