

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Blanchardstown - Baile Bhlainséir	Ref:	365
County:	Dublin	Mark:	310
Category:	D	Date(s):	30/06/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	27	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	600	295	310

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

Fáilte chuig 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 - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhúr dtionscadail amach anseo.

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition and thank you for your comprehensive application form including photos, map, and your 2023-2027 Action Plan with its Review. Good to see so many of your Actions/Projects were completed as you had hoped. See Concluding remarks for advice on your next Plan. We see the two maps - one with the Townland and the other with the existing TidyTowns Zone. Is it your plan to extend your area? Before you do, decide what is the benefit to you we're not advising either way. Your Blanchardstown TidyTowns Facebook page has 1.4K followers and we see that it is updated regularly which is vital for all social media feeds. Don't forget to include photos of flowers, trees, butterflies etc on the Facebook page which always interests the public. Your Instagram with over 400 followers looks good too. Next year give us the internet link – its quicker for us to access it/them. Having only 9 on the committee seems small for a town of your size but to be honest it's probably for the best, and then have a large number of volunteers. Here we feel however that you're a little small in numbers, so with additional publicity hopefully you'll get some more. Working every Saturday year round and then also on Wednesday during long daylight hours is quite demanding on you and on your small band of volunteers. It's wonderful that you have such a diverse volunteer group. You have support from a large number of businesses, other voluntary groups, Fingal Co Co and other state and semi-state organisations and also other TidyTowns groups. It's great that you work closely with students, including those from Third Level Institutions. Your participation in the Tidy Towns competition for the 6th year is admirable. In the intervening years you have witnessed a development of pride of place and community spirit, in addition to the improvements of the village environment. You're TidyTowns recruitment banner was noted.

See Concluding Remarks for advice.

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

The Zone of the Blanchardstown TidyTowns area extends from the Navan Road to the Roselawn Road and from Clonsilla Road to the Royal Canal and in between you have a large number of residential areas, and the elongated village which consists of practically all the community needs – diverse retail establishments, medical and dental practitioners, veterinary practitioners, a garda station, a church, schools, numerous public houses and restaurants, etc. We admired the diversity of the architectural forms – single and two storey vernacular buildings interspersed with modern urban forms. Compliments to the businesses on the presentation of their properties; some had been recently painted and presented very well. Planting and floral displays enhanced many of the businesses – please

compliment them for making such an effort to present Blanchardstown in such a positive manner. We suggest that others might be encouraged to do likewise – some were a little drab and detracted somewhat from the streetscape. We always love when utility boxes are painted in an artistic manner as truthfully they are extremely dull ‘furniture’ in the streetscape. We love what you have done to date and encourage you to continue with this initiative, as you have quite a number that would benefit from an artistic treatment. We suggest those located in planting beds should have a planting theme, (flowers, ferns, ivy, and those located on the streetscape could have a theme which represents your community or some personality/artist/ writer etc. associated with Blanchardstown. Good to hear that additional seating is to be provided as they are used by all members of the community – young and old to meet and chat. Add a small sign ‘Chat Bench’ to each to encourage people to sit and talk. Murals are a way, hopefully, of deterring the graffiti artists. We noticed very little graffiti so your vigilance in removing it is being rewarded

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are great number of green spaces in Blanchardstown with the canal banks and communal open spaces in residential areas being the most dominant. Close by, although not in your Tidy Towns Zone is Waterville Park, where we have no doubt many of your community walk and run. There is also the green space with mature trees beside the small stretch of the Tolka River that flows through your village. It is wonderful that there is now a walk along the Tolka Valley and we admire the ‘Welcome to Tolka Valley Park’ sign which shows the 2.9K looped walk route which is described as ‘Easy’. This is all the information a walker needs. The small pocket parks/ large flowerbeds at road junctions etc. add to the green spaces and landscaping in Blanchardstown and we note that more areas could have this treatment. There is a particularly good planting bed at the junction of Roselawn Road and Castleknock Road. More, such as this, are needed in Blanchardstown. Is there a reason why there isn’t one on the opposite side of the road where there are the three planters? Do a survey of the town and map areas where pocket parks or permanent planting beds could be inserted. Then implement this plan, slowly if necessary, in conjunction with the parks department of FCC. The planting at the Credit Union building on Clonsilla Road was admired. Planting 500 bulbs for spring floral displays in addition to providing nectar for the early pollinators is admirable – nice photos.

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

There are quite a variety of habitats for birds, insects and mammals to find a home in Blanchardstown – stone walls, hedge rows, open green areas, wonderful mature trees, the Royal Canal and the Tolka River and surrounding woodland. It was disappointing to read of the pollution in the River Tolka but your diligence was rewarded and remedial action was taken by FCC. The Buddleia still exists on the Mill Road bridge – this MUST be removed to stop damage being caused to the bridge by the roots of the Buddleia. Cherry Laurel is a problem for many communities – other voluntary group have removed large areas with some help of their LA., so perhaps you too should commence this. Do you know if the faith communities are supporting biodiversity in faith grounds? The booklet ‘Havens For Nature’ published by the Heritage Council shows how faith communities can turn their properties and grounds into places where nature and heritage can thrive together. We encourage a no mow policy but this need not be confined to May. We suggest that it be rotated and that some areas are No Mow May while others are No Mow June or July. We suggest that you encourage residents to approach their gardens with this in mind. Perhaps rotate the estates and communal green areas? In this way a variety of wild flowers and grasses will become apparent. We read that you are engaging with FCC regarding the swift project. We look forward to hearing of its progress in future applications. At some point in the near future you should produce a Blanchardstown Biodiversity Plan. You will need to engage a professional to undertake this but in the meantime, we encourage you to look around and see what’s around you – insects, birds, mammals, trees, streams, grasslands, etc., etc.

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

You mention plants grown in your polytunnel but didn’t tell us where the polytunnel was located. We visit Tidy Towns work areas so next year indicate its location on the map. Leaf mould composting cages are a wonderful asset to residential areas – you have 15 and we guess that more will be provided by FCC as they will be needed in the autumn. We see that raised planter are being constructed for the schools. You should engage with the teachers and help to use the planters to grow vegetables in addition to flowers. It would be great if every child leaving National School had the experience of growing vegetables that they then bring home to their families and eat. We love that you in partnership with others and had a Clothes Swap event. From the photograph, it was a busy occasion. You installed two water butts – next year shows us the location of these on your plan. Another simple project for you to undertake is to find out what the coffee selling establishments are doing with their waste coffee grinds. These are very good for acid loving plants – blueberries, azaleas, and hydrangeas etc. - when spread lightly/thinly on the soil and then raked in. It would be good if they were made available for the community to add to their home compost areas – you might have to supply biodegradable plastic bags, but maybe not. Is there a community allotment garden in Blanchardstown? We have no doubt that the local authority has an area which would be suited for this. Not only will people be physically active, produce vegetables, fruit and flowers, but also the interaction with other growers is beneficial to mental health. Are any of the hospitality providers part of Refill Ireland? We didn’t notice any signs. We also looked for a public water refill station ... is there one provided by FCC? If not, something to request. The EV charger on Mill Road was noted. Are there others in Blanchardstown?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We assume that you take part in the An Taisce Annual National Spring Clean? We strongly encourage groups to take part in all National and County Clean-Up events as it focuses the mind of the general public of the high amount of litter/fly tipping/ dumping that occurs nationally when they see the volunteers working in their high-vis vests. It would be a help to you if your businesses would undertake to remove litter and weeds from outside their properties.

You could get them to register for the #2minutestreetclean also organised by An Taisce. Blanchardstown Tidy Towns volunteers are kept busy with the weekly, and sometime bi-weekly, cleanup and when we visited, we're delighted to report, that litter was minimal. It's good that you engaged with the schools, youth groups, and both residents' associations and corporate volunteers. All this help is needed to keep an area litter free. The graffiti artists exists in most large towns, and the trick is to clean or paint over the 'artwork' as quickly as possible to discourage them. While there was very little litter, unfortunately, weed growth along the edges of walls and kerbs was noted. These are easily removed using a brush and shovel so please encourage your volunteers to do this on a regular basis.

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

As stated previously the Main Streets in Blanchardstown have single and two-story residences interspersed with businesses. Many of these houses had been recently painted and presented well. There are large numbers of residential estates located primarily to the west of your Main Street. Here residents have made a huge effort to display their properties, and here too some had been recently painted. Your estates are quite mature and gardens have great displays of perennial and annual flowers, colourful shrubs, and mature trees. Some of the trees in the gardens are ornamental and act as focal points along the streetscape. There was considerable amount of sucker growth on trees in the residential areas which needs to be removed. Carefully select the planting which you provide in front of the estate name stones. Needless to say plants which grow and hide the name are unsuitable. Very often resident associations are unaware of the growth patterns of the flowers they select. We recommend that you make a list of pollinator-friendly flowers for different locations and give this to the residents' associations. Generally communal open spaces were well presented with grass trimmed and a variety of trees planted. It will be good to see some seating provided in the open spaces you mentioned but truthfully they should be provided in ALL open spaces where the community, particularly the youth, can gather and chat. Unfortunately chemical weed killer had been used around some trees, poles, etc which left unpleasant burnt grass appearance in some estates.

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

Your Main Street is quite busy with vehicular traffic but in the main, motorists respected the speed controls and drove carefully. We noted quite a few areas where there were pedestrian linkages, which we admired. We encourage these in all communities to make it easier for the pedestrian to go from one place to another. Some of these laneways, while clean and litter-free, were a little dull – block walls facing block walls. We suggest that a mural, even just along one side, would add greatly to them. The new Scaldwood/Loop walk is wonderful – unfortunately we only saw it from both ends as time didn't permit us to walk it. There are some wonderful, mature trees along many of your roadways which add to the beauty of the areas. We noted some recently installed dipped kerbs in housing estates and were surprised to see that rumble strips had not also been included. You might investigate this with FCC. Perhaps it's the policy to only have them on main roads? In a busy town, where there is a lot of vehicular traffic, it is difficult to keep road surfaces and road markings in top condition. Some were a little worn but nothing that needs immediate attention from FCC. We didn't see disabled and age friendly parking bays but maybe we just missed them? These are needed in all towns and villages.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your town ... but we have a couple of suggestions for 2027.

- In your Application Form only include projects and activities which have been completed or are being maintained. All improvements etc which have yet to take place are Future Projects and should ONLY be in your Five Year Plan.
- It might be better to have your Map in landscape format rather than in portrait format. We feel the area could be enlarged more so as to make it easier for the adjudicators to find your projects.
- In your new Five Year Plan it's better to have a number of projects/activities listed under each category with the name of a member of the committee who will lead the project/activity and the names of collaborators who will be needed to bring the project/activity to termination. Every year a tick, as you do, can be put after the project/activity if it has been completed or progressed. In this way you, and we, can see an advancement in you plan.
- We were delighted to see that you had limited the number of projects/ sites for the adjudicator to visit. But remember in order to make the application more user friendly it's acceptable to have more than one map, if needed. Each of the maps could be on an A4 with the legend attached. Please also put a North point on the map – just for clarity.

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.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Blanchardstown.