

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Chapelizod - Séipéal Iosóid	Ref:	166
County:	Dublin	Mark:	388
Category:	D	Date(s):	06/06/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	52	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	53	55
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	48	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	46	48
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	30	32
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	44	45
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	600	375	388

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 2026 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition and thank you for your application form which was well structured, succinct and included great photographs and clear information. Your map was one of the better ones seen by this adjudicator with a good legend and numbers referring to section of entry and item in section. Your five year plan (2023 – 2028) is comprehensive and you have added annual updates in red to show progress or status of each project. You might consider turning this into a spreadsheet with annual updates by year as it would be easier to track the progress not only for your adjudicator but for yourselves also.

Your good sized committee of 10 members is supported by up to 60 volunteers and support from agencies, bodies and businesses is extensive showing a great community spirit. As a committee you are active members or representatives on many of the steering groups in Chapelizod allowing full and comprehensive communication across all areas of interest. This can only be of help when planning projects, events and with ongoing networking. New residents to the area are welcomed to the village and your volunteers come from 14 different countries showing it is a fully inclusive and diverse group.

Communications are also multi-faceted both digitally and using traditional methods. Mention was made in last years report of the Failte booklet you produced in 2022 and updated in 2025. Your social media presence is good with lots of good updates.

You are involved in many events organised throughout the year in Chapelizod. Social inclusion day has become an annual event and is a wonderful event helping to build community spirit.

Your attitude to work sessions is great. It gives volunteers the opportunity to work as and when they can without pressure and to buddy up if they wish. The final hour that you use to 'Swarm' an area is a good idea and of course, the social aspect of the coffee break after the hard work is not only necessary but a key part of social inclusivity.

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

The village of Chapelizod has a long and fascinating history with 29 protected structures which is, in itself, a challenge. You have derelict properties much like many other villages but it is reassuring to see that there has been significant progress throughout the village.

You work hard to ensure that even derelict buildings are not an eyesore and the new art work for the hoarding on 18/19 Main St looked very well.

Your representations to protect the Knockmaree Cromlech are worthy and it is disappointing to know that progress has not as yet been made or promises fulfilled.

Some of the utility boxes had lovely artwork and looked bright and colourful. A few more would benefit from this treatment, beside the bus stop opposite Belgrove Park would be a good example. The repainting of the place names in the village was admired and well done to the volunteers for carrying out this work.

It is admirable that the Tidy Towns group not only fund the maintenance and running costs for the AES located outside the Bandroom but also run training courses for your volunteers. The training for the use of the AED is one that is often overlooked so well done for ensuring it happens.

It will be interesting to see the results of the study to examine the possibility of providing a fish path at the Millrace and your new working group set up this year which included Chapelizod Anglers and the Owner Management Group of the Island/Weir complexes will hopefully be able to find the funding opportunities for this to happen. Congratulations to The Mullingar House Pub and The Park Lane Deli for their second and third prizes in the Dublin City Neighbourhood competition. Well done also to Chapelizod for the Urban Village Award, to St. Laurence's Grove for the Open Space award and to Chapelizod Tidy Towns for the River CleanUp award as well as the two volunteers who won Achievement awards. You virtually swept the carpet. It is a great achievement and testament to the hard work carried out over the year.

Although it is good to see the public phone boxes retained and maintained with its original colours, it is a shame that it cannot be repurposed in some way – many have used it for a free library, seed swaps, AED amongst other things. It is understandable that you have to keep it locked due to some anti-social behaviour and you are best positioned to know what might work in your area. The interior décor was admired.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Volunteers were out in force on adjudication day doing a great job on a windy day. The trees in the square look well and soften the landscape considerably. The many planters were colourful and plants nicely maintained although it would be good to harmonise the planters to give a consistency of style and planting. It is important to use planting schemes as sustainably as possible. This includes favouring perennial plants over annuals, reducing the need for frequent replacement and lowering long-term maintenance costs. Well-designed perennial schemes can be easily refreshed or supplemented as needed, without requiring a complete redesign and replanting each year. This approach promotes sustainability, enhances biodiversity, and provides greater continuity in the overall landscape appearance.

St. Laurence's Grove is a lovely with a pocket park that is teeming with biodiversity. There were many plastic pots in the area, some no doubt used to hold plants until ready to plant out. However, it would be nice to see less plastic used in such a natural environment. Please remember that nothing should ever be nailed directly onto trees. Hammering anything into a tree is intrusive and will cause harm; a tree is a living organism and an injury such as this is damaging. There are non-intrusive alternatives that could be used.

Planting outside Northcliffe Apartments looks well although it might be good to remove the broken half barrels and plant directly into the ground here as is preferred wherever possible. Well done to the volunteer who has managed to established a wildflower area here.

The 'Adopt a Spot' scheme is an excellent way of dividing up work to suit the residents and you now have 13 different residents who have adopted their spot.

You have cultivated ivy growing on the wall of the Industrial Estate for the benefit of wildlife and of course ivy can serve as an effective natural covering, helping to soften the visual impact of the wall while also providing habitat and shelter for wildlife.

However, ivy can also present significant structural concerns. Its rapid growth allows aerial roots to penetrate joints, potentially displacing stones or bricks. In addition, suckers and tendrils may accelerate surface deterioration—particularly of mortar—through the secretion of mildly acidic substances. Over time, this process can compromise the stability of an entire wall. For this reason, ivy growing on older buildings or traditional stone walls is generally discouraged.

The hedging along St. Patrick's National School wall has certainly provided a screen to the school yard and has greened up the Chapelizod Bridge Road. It is, though cherry laurel which is on the invasive list of plants and offers little pollinator benefit. If the opportunity arose, it would be of great benefit to plant an alternative that equally provides a screen but also value in terms of biodiversity. As the leaves of cherry laurel are cut, they emit hydrogen cyanide gas (hydrocyanic acid). Although outdoors this is not an issue, do be careful to remove all old leaves from the ground and when transporting the cut leaves by car or other means.

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

Chapelizod is in a fortunate location beside the Phoenix Park with the River Liffey running through it and a large amount of greens spaces in and around the village. As a group you recognise the need to protect and conserve our biodiversity and you have mentioned several small projects suggested by you and carried out by residents that make a big difference. These include softening the entrance to The Moorings, changing planting regimes to a more sustainable wildflower style, allowing grass to grow for No Mow May and June, Let it Bloom as well as sharing tips from the Biodiversity Ireland website with the wider community.

Swift boxes at Lions villa Residential Home have not been successful as yet but you remain hopeful and the fruit trees planted some four years ago have blossomed well this year so there is always a chance the swifts will come. Isolde's Island nature reserve is a lovely tranquil spot and your minimal intervention policy here is to be commended.

Well done on your initiative in collaboration with Inchicore Environmental Group to remove debris from the River Liffey.

Your jointly funded full day gardening course run jointly with the Chapelizod Allotment Group was clearly a great success and the objectives of the course were Biodiversity, Sustainability, Wellbeing and Inclusivity. This is a great

combination and resulted in 6 more volunteers joining the Tidy Towns group. You are planning more courses for 2026.

Engagement with the community and local home owners is an important part of the move towards a more sustainable and biodiverse environment. By raising awareness, suggesting small changes and allowing for flexibility and compromise as you have done, the change will happen to the satisfaction of everyone.

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

This is a category that encompasses all other categories and you have demonstrated that in your every activities you promote sustainability as much as possible.

You have a Sustainability Sub committee which will help focus on the actions require to bring sustainability to the forefront of our every day lives even more. The "Play Your Part in Sustainable Art" initiative launched last year to promote recycling, sustainability, and environmental awareness resulted in a fabulous mural made from collected plastic caps.

Well done for collaborating with a Students Learning with Communities (SLWC+) initiative in TU Dublin, City Campus. Students undertake assessment work around co-created themes which target aspects of social sustainability (heritage, culture and community) and environmental sustainability (biodiversity, low impact transport). This project addresses a number of the Sustainable Development Goals Project and their work in the form of videos and trails were presented to the community in January 2026. You hope to incorporate the recommendations into your actions and it would be a good idea to include them on your 5 year plan also.

You have entered into an agreement with SEAI to become a Sustainable Energy Community and this is certainly good news. It is understandable that you have undertaken this with reservations as it is indeed a big body of work albeit a very worthwhile and important one. We look forward to hearing of your progress in future reports.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

As mentioned volunteers were out in force on adjudication day sweeping, cleaning, litter picking and more besides. The village was exceptionally clean and tidy. This is not an easy task given the location of the village, the large volumes of traffic as well as the proximity of the river and the park.

It is indeed disappointing that some of the students from the secondary schools are not respectful of their environment or of the work that you carry out. Could they be invited to join one of your work sessions to understand the consequences of their actions?

You have ten 'Neat Street Teams' and these are great solution to delegate and divide the work up and it is heartening to hear that children are encouraged to actively take part in these sessions.

Your weekly sessions, adopt a spot, neat street teams and other initiatives such as weed control combine to do the very best job possible in a difficult situation. Continued encouragement to pick up is required and in time hopefully habits will change. In the meantime, you are to be commended for your combined efforts. Some small details were noticed on the visit as detailed below but in general Chapelizod was looking well on adjudication day and there was little or no litter.

The sign for the Chapelizod Allotments needs to be repositioned and fixed in place. Some of the bollards at Northcliffe Apartments need a good clean. The Bin the Poo notice had fallen down from the pole outside The Weir and needs to be fixed in place.

Although the bridge was spotless, the wooden hand rail would benefit from an upgrade, a simple sand and varnish would make a huge difference.

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

There is a varied and eclectic mix of houses, newer apartment buildings and cottages in Chapelizod and the sense of care and maintenance throughout is obvious.

The Chapelizod Festival Garden Competition is a wonderful incentive for homeowners to put their best foot forward and display their gardens. The healthy rivalry it can create results in good appearances for the gardens and the winner was viewed and very much admired. Well done. The introduction of a Bio-Diversity Garden award is excellent news – please do tell us the winner of this garden in a future application.

It was nice to see that the giant Sequoia tree at the Laurence Estate was retained, and it is in a beautiful location well maintained by a local team of volunteers.

The opening up of a vista to the river and hills of the park is a lovely consequence of the redevelopment of Maryfield Nursing Home and is of course a great amenity for the community.

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

The approach roads to Chapelizod are busy ones and the responsibility of three separate local authorities. This makes your liaisons with the authorities more complex, but you manage to keep in constant touch with them to report with any issues on the approach roads. The signage was indeed in good order, the village entrance signage nicely planted and clearly visible.

Ongoing discussions regarding the conflicting modes of travel have resulted in agreed outcomes that will hopefully make traffic safer and more free flowing.

Your ongoing aim to retain the village feel are admirable. It does indeed retain the village feel and once in the square, it is hard to believe the city centre of Dublin is a mere 5 kms away.

Concluding Remarks:

Chapelizod was a delight to visit for this adjudicator having driven through many times but never taken the time to stop and really admire its charming characteristics. These are greatly complimented by the work of the Tidy Towns

and the volunteers and you are to be commended for it.

Your final comments on your application form are noted and it is good to hear that the awarding of the bronze medal in 2025 has given you renewed impetus and new volunteers. Keep up the good work Chapelizod and best wishes in the competition.