

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Clondalkin - Cluain Dolcáin	Ref:	2107
County:	Dublin	Mark:	379
Category:	G	Date(s):	13/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	54	56
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	41	43
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	29	31
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	41
TOTAL MARK	600	363	379

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 application form, map, and accompanying document. Your Three Year Plan is very good but we suggest that you make it a Five Year Plan, as very often projects take longer than three years to complete. We also recommend that you select a committee member or volunteer who will lead/ progress the project and in addition add a collaborator e.g. NPWS, South Dublin Co Co etc. whose assistance you will need to undertake the project. Your committee of fifteen is assisted by up to fifty volunteers, which truthfully is necessary for a town of your size, so well done on encouraging this number of volunteers. It's very good of the Maldron Hotel to give you space free of charge for your meetings and also to provide you with teas and coffees – good community participation and encouragement by the management. 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 state and semi-state agencies, local businesses, voluntary groups and schools who support your activities. We're delighted to see that it also includes your local elected representatives. You have participated in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition for the past thirteen. We see that your involvement has supported the steady progress in tree and floral planting which will become more and more important as our climate changes.

Please see Concluding Remarks for general advice for 2027

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

With a population of over 15,000 you are a large community. Located between the grand canal, M50, Naas Road and Fonthill Road your village centre is quite compact and contains all a community needs – shops, medical facilities, schools, library, churches, community centre, restaurants, pubs, Irish cultural centre etc. There is a great variety of architectural styles in the village from single-story vernacular houses to four-storey modern buildings. We are delighted to say that all sit comfortably side-by-side. The businesses in the village were well presented and some had been recently painted and looked well. Some businesses also made considerable additional effort and had colourful planters, window boxes, or hanging baskets which added not only movement, but also beauty to your streetscape. Please commend them for making the effort and encourage others to do likewise. We admired the mural of Saint Bridget and we suggest that the theme is extended along the complete blank wall. There are many other blank walls in Clondalkin in equally prominent areas which would benefit from either a mural or planting with climbers – see below in Landscaping. The utility boxes which have been painted with themes which relate to

Clondalkin were admired. Is it our plan to continue this treatment – we hope so. We admired the new big belly bins with topics which relate to Clondalkin – compliments to SDCC for this initiative. We were delighted to see that you have quite a number of natural stone walls, both new and not so new, bordering green spaces, and housing estates. The An Cuain bronze sculpture on Monastery Road it's very beautiful. Needless to say that as we visit during the day, we did not see the effect of your new lighting. While we are against signage (as it clutters the streetscape and landscape) we would like to see a small stone/metal plaque inserted into the ground which would give information about this sculpture. Your upcycled bicycles are a bit of fun and add to the streetscape. The mural on the container in Clondalkin Park is wonderful, compliments to all involved.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have a large number of parks and green areas in Clondalkin – many of which we visited. Corkagh Park, with the river Camac and it's fishing lakes, large mature trees, a rose garden, multiple sport amenities, a dog park, a café, etc is a wonderful park of 120 ha. Close by is Community Park (Clondalkin Park?) equally with sports amenities. We noted that in both of these large parks, the grass had been cut tightly which we felt was a pity, as all of the areas are not needed for sporting amenities. We suggest that you discuss this matter with SDCC and come up with a plan for large tracts to be left as wildflower and wild grass meadows where the grass is cut in the spring and then not again until the autumn. We were delighted to read that you have planted trees based on the Miyawaki theory of crowd foresting. We have seen this in other communities but be warned, you may need to remove some of the trees in time to allow the others to mature naturally/correctly. The Lavender beds in the new raised flower bed at Monastery Road are growing nicely and in a few years will be quite spectacular in this location. We feel they will crowd the snowdrops, and that perhaps you should find a new location for these. We noted some areas there are long blank walls which would benefit from planting. Where long lengths of block /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 block/ rendered walls exist to begin a planting strategy. A tiny opening in the pavement is all that's needed to insert a plant. Your 1916 Commemorative 1916 garden is quite beautiful – compliments to all on its maintenance particularly as it is located along a VERY busy road and so all equipment etc. must be carried quite a distance. Elsewhere your planting beds are wonderful and give great colour to the streetscape in addition to being wonderful for our pollinators.

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

You have your wonderful parks, and in addition around the town are mature trees, hedgerows and stone walls, all of which are wonderful habitats of value for nature and biodiversity. The River Camac flows through Clondalkin and while it is quite shallow and slow flowing at present we have no doubt that in winter it is full of water. Do you know what habitats you have in your town or indeed what birds, animals, etc call your town their home? We also recommend that you produce a Biodiversity Plan for Clondalkin. 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. We also suggest you engage with the local schools are very often the children will have undertaken projects in the classroom. As we walked through Corkagh Park we heard a variety of birdsong – sparrow, robin goldfinch, magpie, jackdaw, and of course herring gull. In addition we saw a heron, little egret and mallard ducks. We have no doubt there are many more in Clondalkin. While there are wonderful, mature trees in your parks we feel there could be more, particularly on both sides of the footpaths. These will not only create a canopy for pedestrians from the heat and from the rain but they will also be roosting, nesting, feeding etc sites for birds and insects. Good to read that you have planted some native hedge rows with blackthorn, hawthorn, holly, spindle and gelder rose. They will be a wonderful asset to your wildlife in a few years when they mature.

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. Well done on the Halloween Costume Swap Shop – we have no doubt that this idea, if publicised well in advance, will be embraced by the community. Interesting to read about Clondalkin being designated a Decarbonizing Zone under the National Climate Action Plan 2023. Let us know the advancement of this in future applications. The Srulleen parish is making a difference and is encouraging the community to recycle clothes, bicycles, etc. We have no doubt that in Clondalkin there are those who repair items. We recommend that you produce a 'Clondalkin – where can I fix it?' booklet where the community can find out where items can be repaired e.g. bicycles, furniture, mobile phones, clothes, electrical goods etc. this document can be put in doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms, hairdressers i.e. any place where people sit for a while and wait. It can also be put as a link on your Facebook page. 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 Clondalkin? This is something that's becoming more and more popular in the larger towns. It is something that we would encourage you to begin and here you could have the Clondalkin Tidy Towns polytunnel, leaf cages, compost area, etc. where the community could gather and learn about planting vegetables and flowers. There are many more projects that you could undertake in this category - please consult the Tidy Towns handbook for ideas.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

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

As stated previously the village is a mix of single and two storey vernacular architecture interspersed with modern buildings. We loved that the village has residences and commercial buildings side-by-side which gives a lovely atmosphere to the village centre, in addition to making it safe for nighttime pedestrians. 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. We see that you encourage your residents to be mindful to plant for our pollinators. They might need you to give them a list, so we advise you to prepare one showing flowers of different heights and colours in addition to shrub varieties; all of which attract our pollinators. Better still if you make out another list for flowers/shrubs that are for our early and late pollinators. Interesting that you have noticed that having CTT volunteers on Residents' Associations has improved the images of those estates and particularly the images of the entrances. One estate, Cappagh More, had painted the edge stones in black and white paint on the road island at the entrance which added to the visual appearance for both pedestrian and motorist. While this needs annual attention, it is a wonderful way to draw the motorist's attention to this pedestrian safety feature. It is brilliant to see the colourful planting surrounding estate name signs. But it is vital that the estate name sign is legible and that tall planting is to the sides and rear of the sign and only low planting in front. In a number of instances, we could not read the names signs. We visited quite a number of your housing estates, but not all. We admired the work which had been carried out by St. Patrick's, where they had neatly trimmed the grass margins to the edges of the footpath and to the kerbstones along the road. Very often we see these areas sprayed with chemical weedkiller which kills the grass and leaves the area unsightly. We recommend that you ask other residents' associations to look at the work in this estate and to emulate it in theirs as we noted grass encroaching on the roads and footpaths in quite a number of those we visited. Many of your housing estates had great tree lined avenues, and we were delighted to see that in some, new trees had been planted where none had previously existed along the roadside. In almost all the estates we visited, the grass in the communal area had been cut very low. As in your public parks, for your communal open spaces we recommend that the grass is left uncut in areas which are not required for ball play to allow wildflower meadows to develop. No Mow May is a wonderful idea, but we might suggest that you think about this and in addition you could rotate the month in the various estates and have No Mow June and No Mow July as this will encourage a huge variety of wildflowers to grow.

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

We admired that your main access roads are wide and consist of a grass margin separating the pedestrian from the motorist. Some of these grass margins have trees which we were happy to see. We recommend that you survey these arterial roads and make a list of those where trees are needed in the grass margin/possible in the grass margin, and bring this to the attention of SDCC Parks Department. We admired the treatment by SDCC of your roundabouts. Many had mature trees along with other features, which not only made the area beautiful but also serve as a visual focal point on the road for the motorist. Good to see that SDCC relined the yellow box which you requested and that since then traffic congestion is less – we noted that it is a little work again. We noted rumble strips and dipped paving at some of your road junctions but not all. Do you know if this is something that is planned to be undertaken at all road junctions? We loved that there is a lot of connectivity for the pedestrian through green spaces, linking one estate to another, and also linking schools to housing areas. This linkage encourages people to walk. Have you examined walking routes around your town? Particularly walking routes that bring the pedestrian through your green spaces. The distance and difficulty of the routes must be noted so that the pedestrian is aware of what's involved. This is something you could put on your new noticeboard. The bicycle repair kit at the ninth lock needs to be either removed or to have all of the tools replaced.

Concluding Remarks:

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

- Your application of 78 page is unnecessary long. You were requested to limit word count in each category to a maximum of 500. PLEASE abide by this request. Use bullet points rather than 'essay' type information – this is more acceptable and also cuts down on the word count. Your larger document, which is very comprehensive, can be put on your website for the information of your followers.
- You selected 59 projects for the adjudicator to inspect. This number of projects is too many. The adjudicators will visit your town and see a large number of projects ... but not 59, so please select the ones which are your key projects.

- In the application please BRIEFLY describe your Key Project as requested in the community category. We will then read about it in more detail in the category where it is most suited.
- It was extremely difficult to locate some of the projects. The map when printed (which we must do) was VERY pale and while the main road names and green park areas were legible, everything else was illegible. We had to make a number of visits to locate some of your projects. Please correct this for next year. We also recommend that you make a second map showing the village centre area so that these projects are more easily located.

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 Clondalkin.