

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonsilla- Cluain Saileach** Ref: **720**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **259**
Category: **C** Date(s): **30/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	28	31
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	29	31
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	24	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	40	42
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	600	245	259

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2026. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhuir n-iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta agaibh in bhuir gceantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhúir dtionscadail amach anseo.

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition and thank you for your application form, with photos and 3/5 year Plan and also for your map which was hand drawn and clearly showed the locations of the projects you particularly wanted us to visit. Compliments to the artist. Your Three Year Plan is very good but we suggest that you make it all 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. Fingal Co. Co., NPWS, LAWPRO, local businesses or other voluntary organisations etc. whose assistance you will need to undertake the project. Your committee of eight is assisted by up to forty volunteers, which truthfully is necessary for a town of your size, so well done on encouraging this number of volunteers to help you with the work. We admired the videos on YouTube – nice to see the one of a walk along the canal with fifth class pupils. We also liked to see that your Facebook is up-to-date. this is crucial for a social media account. We didn't access the Instagram – not sure why we couldn't – but we have no doubt that this too is up-to-date. You list a large number of state and semi-state agencies, local businesses, voluntary groups and schools who support your activities. Don't forget to also contact your local elected representatives: you might need their assistance with some projects. We're delighted to see that you enjoy participating in this competition – truthfully it's not really a 'competition', it's more about the adjudicators' helping communities to progress. This is your fourth year with us and we see that participation 'has been a catalyst for positive changes' which we are delighted to see.

Please see Concluding Remarks for advice for 2027

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

With a village population of over 1,100 and a catchments population on over 10,000 you are a large community. Located between the Ongar Distributor Road, the Royal Canal, Clonsilla Link Road and Diswellstown Road your village core is quite compact and contains almost everything your community needs – shops, medical facilities, schools, churches, restaurants, pubs, train station, service station etc. There is a great variety of architectural styles in the village from single-story neat vernacular houses to four-storey modern buildings, which makes for an interesting streetscape. 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. A few of the 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 the same. A communal effort is all that's needed to improve the beauty of Clonsilla Road. They will

need some advice from you. We admired the painted Utility Boxes but there are many more which you should undertake as these add to the charm of a streetscape and are noticed by the community. We admired the new heritage information panel which tells of the early history of Clonsilla, and of the canal and railway. The QR code gives additional information. The black and yellow paint at Porterstown Road bridge needs to be refreshed as does that of O'Callaghan Bridge. The old signal box was admired – you know it needs attention and are in discussions with Iarnród Éireann. We admired the pump area on the Porterstown Road but please trim back the growth which is encroaching on the walls. We are delighted to see that you did not feel the need to put planters of hanging baskets around this area as the surrounding plants are sufficient, and the simplicity of the display was admired. Please commend Lidl on their planters – they are quite beautiful and in time these will add even more to the streetscape. Truthfully trees grow better in the ground but perhaps there was a reason behind the container planting. Are there any plans for the Old Schoolhouse? A wonderful building in such a large site. Perhaps a restaurant – an ideal location along the canal.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are many great open communal green spaces north and south of Clonsilla Road which have wonderful mature trees and expanses of grass. In addition you have the banks of the Royal Canal with its 'wooded ravine' – unfortunately we didn't have the time to walk along the tow path and enjoy the beauty and calm it has to offer. The planting beds along your streetscape and in the estates were admired. We also admired the work undertaken in St. Mary's church grounds in the creation of a Community Nature Hub. It will take time for these plants to grow but be patient as the area is quite beautiful, and in time will indeed be a Nature Hub. The location of the seat is ideal with the backdrop of a mature hedge and trees. There were some litter left around the seat, which was a pity, but we assume your litter-pick volunteers will remove that shortly. Along the roads, there are also areas which are tree lined. We are delighted to see that some of your businesses have planted trees and we commend them for this. Clonsilla Road would benefit from additional trees but as it is extremely busy with traffic, it is highly unlikely that the roads engineers would be in favour of additional trees to be planted along this route, so you must rely on the businesses and residence to assist to help you in planting them. With our climate changing, the need for trees is even greater than before, and as we know trees add value to a property; this might encourage some. We recommend that you survey Clonsilla Road and see areas/gardens/businesses where a tree or group of trees could be planted. Small saplings are available free of charge during National Tree Week or more mature ones are, truthfully, quite cheap from reputable garden centres. We also recommend that you add planters (with a tree and trailing plants) which will give impact along this road, in key locations, where it is not possible to plant into the ground.

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

You have your very pleasant communal open areas, and in addition around the roads are mature trees, hedgerows and stone walls, all of which are wonderful habitats of importance for nature and biodiversity. The Royal Canal borders your area which has riparian banks and a wonderful tree canopy. Good that you gifted the schools with bat and bird boxes and also insect hotels. It would also be good if you would add some in the various communal open spaces in the residential areas where volunteers could monitor their usage. 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 Clonsilla. In order to have a 'professional document', a professional/expert must be engaged as it's not something the an amateur can undertake. 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 as very often the children will have undertaken projects in the classroom. You could also organise a Bat Walk along the canal – contact Bat Ireland for details. Have you swifts? The installation of swift boxes are available to attract them to new nesting areas. Another project for you to organise with your local schools and churches.

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

When this category was introduced some years back community groups found it difficult to understand and now we 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. Good to see that leaf mould composting cages have been introduced by FCC and that you are creating your own compost. Be careful with the use of coffee grinds; the safest way for you to use them is to add them to your compost containers and leave for a year or so before use. Alternatively then can be made available for the public for their compost or to sprinkle lightly around acidic-loving plants such as blueberries, roses, azaleas or hydrangeas and then raked into the soil. You mention a water collection proposed project at the 'shed' ... is this a TidyTowns work area/compost area/growing area/polytunnel area? Put its location on the map next year. Have you encouraged the schools to have a uniform swap/recycling day? Another idea for an area with a large population is a Halloween Costume Swap Shop. Perhaps you could organise this in one of the school halls or churches? Is there an Allotment Garden/ Community Growing Garden in Clonsilla? This is something that's becoming more and more popular in the larger towns/areas. It is something that we would encourage you to begin and here you could have the Clonsilla Tidy Towns shed, polytunnel, leaf cages, compost area, etc. where the community could gather and learn about planting vegetables and flowers from you.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We hope, that as a fairly newly formed Tidy Towns group, you are aware of the All Ireland An Taisce Spring Clean Event and now take part? This is a wonderful way for your community to be reminded of litter and fly-tipping. When your volunteers are seen in their high viz vests, it focuses the attention of the whole community and indeed on visitors on the need to be vigilant in how they dispose of their litter. We noticed the freshly painted dark green utility boxes. Is it you plan to have an artist to paint these similar to the Fox one? A theme of something relating to

Clonsilla would be interesting or a bright floral theme, depending on the location. We noted the decals on the litter bins promoting Clonsilla Tidy Towns. This is an excellent location for this publicity for your group, and good that you give your email address so that you can be contacted. In an area as large as Clonsilla it is difficult to maintain it litter free, but when we visited, we were delighted to say that the only litter we noted had been recently dropped. We noted a small amount of graffiti, but truthfully in an area as big as a Clonsilla, we would have expected more. So well done on the vigilance of volunteers on reporting it when noticed. We love that you carried out a survey of your streets and brought issues to SDCC for the attention of the area office. Truthfully our LAs rely upon the public to inform them of issues such as you mentioned in your application form as they do not have the staff to undertake such surveys. While weed growth was noticed it didn't detract greatly to the presentation of Clonsilla.

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. It is wonderful that the village has residences and commercial buildings side-by-side which gives a lovely atmosphere to the village centre, and also making it safe for nighttime pedestrians. Many houses along Clonsilla Road 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. You have quite a number of housing, estates north and south of Clonsilla Road many of which we visited – The Village Porterstown, Limelawn (the white railings looked great), Castlefield Wood and Park, Charnwood, Lambourn Park, Aspen Avenue, Weavers Wood etc. Some of these have large mature trees along the entrance roads, which we admired. We were delighted to see that where trees had failed new trees have been recently planted by FCC. Please advise the Residents' Associations that they need to check the ties and stakes and remove them when they are no longer necessary. It is also advisable to water trees for the first three years. Advise the associations to remove sucker growth which we noted on quite a number of the newly planted trees. Many of the individual gardens were well-designed and attractively planted with a variety of pollinator friendly, flowers and shrubs. A few have ornamental trees which always add to a streetscape. We love the idea of the 'Estate Stone Enhancement' competition. Have you a 'Best Estate Competition'? This is also very easy to organise and something that creates a little friendly rivalry. The winner to be announced at a social event where the press and local representatives are invited. Good that some of your volunteers have adopted a flower bed near where they live. We encourage you to advise your residents to be mindful to plant for our pollinators. They might need you to give them a list, so prepare one showing flowers of different heights and colours in addition to shrub varieties, all of which attract our pollinators. Put the list on your Facebook and Instagram feeds. Also make out another list for flowers/shrubs that are for our early and late pollinators – this too is needed. We noted in some areas there are long blank walls which would benefit from planting. Where long lengths of block / rendered walls or indeed gables of houses 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.

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. Most 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, and bring this to the attention of FCC Parks Department. If the locations are suitable FCC, in time, will oblige. We were delighted to see the stone repair works carried out at O'Callaghan Bridge. Compliments to FCC for this. We admired the linkages in Clonsilla, particularly in the housing estates, which allows pedestrians to walk safely from one area to another without the need to go onto busy roads. Good to see that FCC lined a yellow box which you requested, and now the exit from the St. Mary's church area is safer. The treatment carried out by FCC to your roundabouts is quite beautiful. Some had mature trees along with other features while others had a wonderful array of colourful flowers – particularly the Clonsilla Roundabout, where we read you too are involved. These not only made the area beautiful but also serve as a visual focal point for the motorist. We noted 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? It would be good to examine walking routes around your town and in particular those that bring the pedestrian through your green spaces. A map to be made of these, with the distance and difficulty of the routes noted so that the pedestrian is aware of what's involved. This is something you could put on a noticeboard (which we advise you to install – perhaps at the train station).

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition ... in addition to the above we have some further recommendation for 2027.

- Firstly we suggest that you include the Catchment Area as your Entry Category as there are less entrants in this Category – Category F. It's also includes your main residential areas where your Residents' Associations exist and where some excellent projects are being undertaken.
- In order to reduce your Application Entry Size there's no need to include an index in the application you send to us. Keep this for the documents you put on your Facebook Page or give to the Community.
- Your numbering system is unnecessarily complicated. Just colour code the categories and then for each use New – N1, N2, N3 etc or Maintained – M1, M2, M3 etc. These numbers can then be transferred to your map along with the legend.
- In the application please BRIEFLY describe your Key Project as requested in the Community Involvement category. We will then read about it in more detail in the category where it is most suited.
- Please select the Category which best suits a project/activity and only put it in that category (you don't

need lots and lots of activities in each category). Some communities will only have a few projects/activities and that's perfectly acceptable.

- Only add New or Maintained projects (i.e. ones that have been completed) to the Application Form as all others are Future Projects and should only be in your Plan.

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. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Clonsilla