

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clontarf - Cluain Tarbh** Ref: **1205**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **296**
Category: **G** Date(s): **07/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	25	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	33
TOTAL MARK	600	283	296

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. Many thanks for your detailed entry form, map, lovely photographs and 5-year Plan. CTT's has built a strong volunteer base with around 100 people that you can call on and over 40 contributing on a regular basis which is pretty amazing. We are delighted to hear work is followed by a social coffee which as you mention plays an important role in sustaining engagement and attracting new participants.

You receive support from DCC, Nolans Supermarket, The Sheds, Yangs Restaurant and many other local businesses which you are very grateful for.

This year you launched the CTT's website which will serve as a central hub for information. The group has joined the Public Participation Network which will enhance your opportunity to access funding and to build wider links in the community.

Working alongside many other community groups ensures nobody gets left out. We commend staff from Salesforce for spending a day with the group which is noteworthy. For Inclusion and Integration Week pupils from the Central Remedial Clinic joined your gardening enthusiasts to work on street planters which look fabulous. Throughout your entry you mention strong links with the younger generation from Community Care weeks with TY students, to practical projects like painting, planting and weeding giving them a strong sense of contribution to their local environment. We favourably acknowledge your support of the Halloween Costume exchange and the WEEE & Bike Recycling event with Scoil Uí Chonailí GAA Club this January.

Your images of the Christmas Tree Lighting Event highlight your civic involvement and we applaud your award as joint winners with Clontarf Residents Association as winners of the Best Urban Village in the North Central Area. Another highlight for the group was the Picnic in the Park to launch the restoration of the bandstand and the Linear Shelter. Both amenities are great for community recreation and provide the public with comfort and shelter from the weather. A large crowd enjoyed guided walks with a local historian and conservation architects along with a photographic exhibition by local artists. Your pictures bring it all to life and sounds like a great day was had by everyone.

Particular focus this year was placed on restoring and enhancing a historic hedgerow at Clontarf Rugby Club by junior team members. Dating back to the 1830's it is great to have it improved and we thank Trees on the Land for donating native tree stocks. A walk along survey of the pitch area has revealed a rare and varied habitat which is a major asset for the village. Altogether it all makes for a great community effort – well done everyone.

You have maintained your momentum and enthusiasm since you joined 6 years ago and we hope you go from strength to strength.

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

We start our journey on Alfie Byrne Road with magnificent views out onto the open seas. Flower containers in a coastal blue colour add a variation of colour, texture and height and make our route very pleasant.

The sail sculpture creates an interesting focal point and is well cared for. With join many other walkers, runners, cyclists and visitors along the promenade. Away from the constant stream of traffic, we found it a lovely space to enjoy the fresh air and to boat watch. The Tramline Transformer is eye catching and we thank TY students and councillor Donna Cooney for their hard work.

Miniature lighthouses placed at entry points are charming and we see how easily they can be damaged.

The Heritage Trail helps us learn more about the history of the area which we might miss from the car or bus.

Colourful picnic benches draw us in and signal that the space is playful.

Hearing the calls of seabird is a classic part of the seaside nature experience and it's an atmospheric soundscape.

10 Interpretative Lecterns with imagery and QR linked content to promote awareness of local coastal birds along Dublin Bay will be educational and we were to early to see them so please include them in next year's entry. A walking Trail will give us another opportunity to explore in the future.

Boats filled with flowers are a popular addition to seaside towns and fit naturally into green spaces along the promenade. Involving the children in naming the boats strengthens their self esteem and will create lasting memories.

Vernon Avenue is a hive of activity. The shops are convenient and we can easily browse local shops and enjoy some nice food. Seeing outdoor dining adds to the street atmosphere. Local side streets are mainly narrow and require careful manoeuvring. The maintenance of kerbs, bollards and street furniture is noteworthy and the murals on utility boxes are gorgeous. There are many fine homes and businesses with attractive hanging baskets, window boxes and landscaping that enhance the streetscape.

Clontarf Castle is a stunning coastal retreat with striking architecture.

St. Gabriels Community Centre is a base for community events and work on the border refill will make a valuable addition and keep us updated on progress.

Managing public spaces like Clontarf Graveyard is difficult because they face challenges with anti-social behaviour. Communities cannot solve all these issues but keeping it well maintained so that the area is open to view from the street is a good move.

We are happy to hear lots of improvement works and new projects are in the pipelines and they will create a high-quality civic space.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Clontarf is blessed to be have plenty of mature tree canopies and green open spaces that boost the health value of the community. Greening up city areas in a worthwhile initiative and tree planting and pollinator friendly planting will make the neighbourhood look much brighter and cleaner. We note favourably planting at the Dart Station, near the junction of Yangs and the boat planters.

More flower beds have now been brought under community maintenance improving plant selection and seasonal variation while contributing to a sustainable future.

Spring bulb planting sounds like a fantastic opportunity to bring the community together while promoting local biodiversity. The best bulbs for pollinators are bloomers like snowdrops, crocuses, grape hyacinths and early iris reticulata and alliums. Keep sending us in winter/spring images.

The new hedging at the promenade is well mulched and progressing nicely. Looking for more opportunities to create wildlife corridors is well informed and aligns with the new AIPP strategy 2026-2030.

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

On your doorstep you have access to Dublin Bay, Bull Island and St. Annes Park. They support protected species and your new Biodiversity Plan has identified more key habitats.

Many projects are praiseworthy in this category including the new hedge at the Rugby grounds as previously mentioned. We liked the images from Hunters Row with hedging and spring bulb displays. The new Church Lane Nature Trail serves as an outdoor classroom for local schools and the snippets of Irish Folklore are interesting – thanks to volunteer Sinead Nic Coitir for organising. We note an educational talk on the Brent Geese. Promoting low mow regimes and creating habitats for swifts, bat and insects are very good projects too. We acknowledge events for National Biodiversity Week.

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

This category is about the group working to make their areas more sustainable. You continue to embed sustainability in all your operations with carpooling, avoiding single use plastic where possible, rain harvesting, leaf composting, active travel and native planting to mention just a few initiatives. The Good Bike Project was a successful event and a great example of recycling.

The clothes swap is a credit to 4 Belgrove schools, Greenlanes, Howth Road National school, CRA, and the local GAA with money raised for the World Food Program.

You have gained a lot of knowledge and raise awareness on various communication platforms to reinforce community wide engagement.

Plant and seed swaps make good projects in this category and is a good way to meet other plant lovers. Are there any possibilities of food sharing programs with local businesses?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The group has a good plan in place to control litter and keep the town looking neat & tidy.

On Saturday mornings you target litter and Wednesday evenings you tackle weeds, planting and street infrastructure and it seems like a sound strategy. Weed growth is difficult to remove and is a laborious task all year round.

Clothing and bottle banks were in good order and present fairly neat. The village was busy on adjudication day but looks very well. The promenade had some small pieces of litter but nothing to worry about. Removing invasive heliotrope is noteworthy as it will crowd out native biodiversity.

Holding the Spring Clean Up Day promotes awareness on the harm that litter can do in particular to our oceans.

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

Residential engagement continues to grow and many home owners take pride in maintaining their properties, frontages, boundary walls, and gardens. You have a strong partnership with CRA and collaborate with them on many projects.

'Adopt a Patch' initiative promotes stewardship of several green spaces and is supported by 5 active members.

New signage on Oulton Road is noted.

Hosting a best kept garden or estate competition helps to encourage and reward residents in maintaining their surroundings.

Residents are to be commended on all the work they are doing to maintain public spaces and presenting their homes to a high standard.

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

On adjudication day streets and footpaths presented well and entrance signage was clean. Being litter free is excellent and we congratulate everyone concerned. Flower containers dotted throughout added warmth and created a welcoming atmosphere.

New entrance signs and surrounding flower beds are part of future plans and will enhance some approach roads.

The flower bed is attractive at Clontarf Castle and grabs our attention.

Toilet facilities are lacking in many well used public spaces and it would be great to have them along the promenade and St. Annes Park when the time is right. Many thanks to DCC for all their assistance and work carried out during the year.

Concluding Remarks:

We were delighted to view all your activities and you should be proud of all the work completed. We were impressed from the minute we entered and would love to visit again when we have more time. From all at the TT's Unit thank you for your time and dedication and we wish you all the best for 2027.