

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Crumlin - Cromghlinn** Ref: **2049**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **299**
Category: **G** Date(s): **07/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	30	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	32	33
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	26	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	600	288	299

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 entry form which was a joy to read. The many colourful photographs were excellent quality and beautifully arranged to give a real flavour of the work undertaken, the many volunteers involved and the improvements you have been working on. Your entry form was very well laid out, with each category colour coded and clear information and projects denoted by N or M as requested. The map was equally well presented, with two clear legends, one of the projects and one of the maintained planting schemes of which there are many. Your adjudicator very much appreciated the suggested route marked on the map as despite having visited Crumlin many times, this was a first visit as an adjudicator and the route was most helpful.

Your committee of 15 has a great team of volunteers (150+) and it was particularly good to note that you have a large number of children who partake regularly as well a great diversity amongst your volunteers showing a truly inclusive, community led spirit. Your support from agencies, businesses and bodies is excellent. As well as having now established a Junior Tidy Towns you also work with the local schools including the green flag initiatives. Well done for also ensuring that there is youth representation on your committee allowing the younger generation to be heard. It is very important and you recognise this.

It was good to see many up to date posts on your social media pages for Bloomin Crumlin and having a dedicated telephone line for those unable or not wishing to use digital technology is great. Quarterly newsletters are sent to over 1500 community members. It is not clear if this is sent via email or in paper format.

Your three year plan was first drawn up in 2022 and is an excellent report. It was particularly good to note that, at the time, it was drawn up following consultation with residents, groups and several surveys undertaken in the local area. Although many of the projects contained in the plan are still live and relevant, it is time to review the plan and bring it up to date noting the projects already completed and all future plans with approximate timelines.

You organise and are involved with many events throughout the year, some of which will be commented on in the relevant categories of this report.

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

Crumlin has a distinct legacy and history as one of the oldest villages in Dublin and the village itself is an Architectural Conservation Area. The famous 1930s Crumlin housing scheme was meticulously planned by the Dublin Corporation to symbolically mimic the aerial shape of a Celtic cross layout. The happy consequence of this design is the sense of space throughout the village which fortunately has been retained and around which you are now able to plan planting schemes and tree planting. The Crumlin & Walkinstown History Group are continuing

their audit of the local pre-1930's buildings and the online repository that they are creating will be a wonderful resource.

You are diligent in advocating for the conservation or redevelopment of derelict and rundown buildings. There is progress in this regard, and we look forward to seeing completed projects in the near future.

The new permanent seating at the Sundrive Road/Kimmage Road West junction was noted and it is aesthetically very pleasing. It was in full use on adjudication day when the sun was shining. It was great to see the improvements at the intersection of Clonmacnoise Road and Bangor Circle with the addition of benches, it is a much more pleasant area now.

The additions in Eamonn Ceannt Park look well including the table tennis, chess and the playground with wheelchair accessible swing. Many new trees have also been planted in the park. The Park Depot has had a great makeover and looks very well with great planting at the entrance.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

As mentioned, Crumlin is fortunate to have a great many, good sized green spaces on which you are capitalising to make the very best environment for residents and biodiversity.

The construction of the new Christy Brown garden is one such project and we look forward to seeing the completed garden in due course.

You have added large planters in areas where there are large expanses of hard surface or tarmac and these certainly help to soften the landscape. Importantly all of your planting initiatives help to provide green corridors which are a major component in successfully fighting fragmentation and strengthening biodiversity. These physical links are one of the most important ways to ensure species are able to move between protected areas and maintain genetic strength.

It was good to note that many new trees have recently been planted in Eamonn Ceannt Park – maintenance of the trees including watering during dry spells is important as is the checking of the stakes and ties, some of which are already digging into the trunks of the trees.

The Phil Lynott garden was looking very well and nicely maintained. Would you consider including the green utility box in the corner for some artwork and growing something to hide the bare wall beside it?

The many planters noted throughout Crumlin were visually appealing and created a lovely effect. Whilst many were painted a bright turquoise, some were in different colours and designs. Consider using planters with a cohesive design to improve and harmonise the visual appearance. Generally, petunias and begonias are poor choices for pollinators because as they are extensively bred for showiness, prolonged blooming, and colour, they often produce little to no pollen and nectar, offering virtually no food for bees or butterflies. The large three tiered planters are an opportunity to bring some creativity in terms of biodiversity and sustainability. Have you considered herbs for the lower tiers including prostrate rosemary that would spill over the edge and soften the harsh look of the plastic containers? 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.

There is ivy growing along the wall on Bunting Road and it is a great source of food especially in the winter. It is important however to carefully manage and control it as it can damage the infrastructure of the wall if left unchecked.

Planters at the school brighten up the tarmac as does the very effective artwork on the shutters.

Some trees in planters were notably either dead or in poor condition, especially outside YouthReach and Scoil Una Naofa.

Over the last few years and in conjunction with Dublin City Council and the local residents, you have made great improvements to the landscape with wonderful planting schemes, wildflower areas and planters on hard surfaces. The difference to the village is wonderful and from a biodiversity perspective, to be commended. Although not all can be commented on this report, they were noted and admired. It was delightful and so helpful to see the photographs of the many areas planted and maintained throughout the village showing the gardens through the seasons with the mass of spring bulbs as well as wildflowers.

You are fortunate to have the Pearse Park Community Garden which is a great resource and the active volunteering membership grows year on year and improvements 'continue in the garden all the time. The many events held including the apple pressing workshop, a bat walk, and a pond workshop are very good. The yearly plant giveaway is a brilliant initiative and notices announcing this year's event were noted in the village.

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

One of your main projects this year has been the now annual Orchard Project which is in its sixth year and is sponsored by the Dublin City Council Community Climate Action Fund. This year you provided over 2,500 plants and shrubs for residents to plant in their gardens and your theme this year was native and edible – this is an enormous undertaking, and you now reckon you have added over 4,000 trees and many thousands of plants and herbs to the local area.

Grant funding also allowed the commissioning of a Community Biodiversity Action Plan which is a roadmap for plans to improve and enhance biodiversity over the next five years. It was also noted on your social media pages that funding has allowed you to appoint a Climate Action Network Community Engagement Facilitator this year. This is great progress.

The tree mapping project is such a great initiative and one that one hopes could be replicated throughout the

country. Having now mapped all the trees in public spaces, you have also invited householders to map the trees in their gardens and have created a tree trail showcasing the trees, both native and others of interest. The report was noted with interest on your website and the recommendations will no doubt form part of your three year plan.

Your garden competition is a great idea and the results from 2025 show a wonderful variety of gardens with great planting. Have you considered a category for the best garden for biodiversity?

Your focus on running workshops that help to engage residents on the biodiversity of the area is an effective way to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity in urban communities. These activities help bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and everyday life, encouraging people to understand, value, and protect the natural environment around them.

One issue that often undermines the many positive initiatives aimed at improving biodiversity is the use of herbicides. And this may be the case in Crumlin. There were a number of noticeable areas where herbicide had been used, namely under the trees on Sundrive Road and along the edges of many of the grass banks. It is suggested that some communication with the agency responsible for the use of herbicide is initiated to try and curb or stop its use altogether.

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

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development “Transforming our World” has as its centrepiece the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which reflect economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Many of these goals are aligned to the different Tidy Towns categories. Thank you for noting the specific goals that align to the projects in your entry form. It is important for Tidy Towns committees to have a clear vision of the aims of their projects in the context of the SDG's.

You have listed many initiatives under this heading to improve the environmental impact of the community.

You are fortunate to have the use of the Community Room, for workshops as well as the polytunnel – these must be hugely helpful for all of your activities. Unfortunately, these were not marked on your map and so your adjudicator was unable to view them. Nonetheless your photographs and information sufficed to understand their importance.

The little libraries were noted and admired. The Bike Hub social enterprise is working very well and as well as teaching how to fix and maintain bikes, it also gives access to age-friendly cycles and much more.

As the first location to be selected for a Suburban Hub, this bike sharing scheme is a great idea and will hopefully be replicated elsewhere.

The report for the 'People's Transition' project in Crumlin was launched in December 2024 and is also available to read on your website. It is an excellent report and can help as a guide for future projects – have you any specific projects planned in relation to the report?

Other activities that take place during the year include cooking classes based on plant-based ingredients, in season produce and leftovers. The Sunday Craft Club is another great idea and the fact that it is open to beginners and experienced crafters makes it very accessible.

You have the opportunity to raise awareness in the community through your newsletter and social media platforms. Encourage residents and visitors alike to stop buying or using single use plastic, ask them to read the small print on detergents and washing up liquids before using them (some say harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects), advise them how much water is wasted when the tap is left on when brushing teeth. Often small snippets of information help people to realise that small changes can make a difference and you are in the perfect position to inform and encourage your community to make those changes.

As part of the circular economy, we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society. Crumlin can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated and then tracking the volumes over a period of years to ascertain if it is reducing. The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The Street Sparkle App is indeed a highly original and useful app and undoubtedly helps greatly in managing the areas that need to be maintained or already have been.

You carry out litter picking and cleaning activities each week and it appears to run like a well-oiled machine. It would be interesting to know if you separate recyclables from general waste and if you record the number of bags collected each week. An analysis to see if the amount is reducing would be interesting to see and indeed inform the local community about especially if it is good news. The social aspect of the work is equally important, and you organise refreshments after the group clean ups every few months.

You have a litter action group made up of key stakeholders including DCC staff and this helps to ensure that key issues are dealt with including graffiti removal, anti-dog fouling initiatives and repair of damaged bins.

On adjudication day there was very little litter noticed and certainly nothing major.

In general all litter bins were clean with the exception of the vape sticker filled bin outside Brady's Newsagents.

There was no evidence of dog fouling noticed and all streets signs were clean and in good condition.

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

You have listed many projects undertaken in recent years in collaboration with residents and most were visited and admired. It was nice to see the Bloomin Crumlin sign also. Rutland Grove looked really well and the planting here was exceptional. Well done to the residents of Park Crescent who meet on a weekly basis to clean and plant on their estate as well as the residents of Sundrive Road. There is no doubt that the work undertaken has increased the sense of community spirit and pride of place considerably and the houses in Crumlin were very well maintained, front gardens were wonderful in their selection of planting and the different styles all adding to great diversity.

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

Your review of all the approach roads has given you an excellent roadmap from which to work and to request improvements. The welcome signs were every well presented, clean, clear and easy to note. The display of wildflowers on the Kildare Road/Crumlin Road junction was looking wonderful and is great solution and vista from the hospital.

The maintenance of the 80 wooden planters is ongoing and surely takes a lot of time and resources. Your discussion with DCC to replace the planters with permanent planting ticks many boxes in terms of sustainability, reduction of watering and maintenance as well as water run off and hopefully you will make progress in this regard in the near future.

Concluding Remarks:

When you entered the competition in 2021, it was the first time in 28 years that the community had attempted to improve community cohesion and pride. It is very clear that already you have made a huge difference in both and continue to do so. It is safe to say that community spirit is alive and well in Crumlin and this is to the benefit of the residents, visitors and the environment. Well done indeed for your wonderful and often very innovative initiatives and keep it up. It was a pleasure to visit Crumlin as an adjudicator and to witness first hand the wonderful improvements. You are wished well in the competition.