

# Tidy Towns Competition 2026

## Adjudication Report

|           |                                                               |          |                   |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Centre:   | <b>Darndale-Belcamp-Moatview - Darndál Belcamp &amp; Radh</b> | Ref:     | <b>2379</b>       |
| County:   | <b>Dublin</b>                                                 | Mark:    | <b>221</b>        |
| Category: | <b>E</b>                                                      | Date(s): | <b>15/07/2026</b> |

|                                           | <b>Maximum Mark</b> | <b>Mark Awarded 2026</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80                  | 35                       |
| Streetscape & Public Places               | 80                  | 32                       |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping              | 80                  | 32                       |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality  | 80                  | 22                       |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less     | 80                  | 20                       |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90                  | 40                       |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 55                  | 20                       |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 55                  | 20                       |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>600</b>          | <b>221</b>               |

### 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 and your map. Truthfully we would require a clearer map so that the adjudicator can easily locate the projects. We LOVE when new committees join the SuperValu Tidy Towns as it indicates that residents are engaging with each other to advance their area and make it a better place for all. Your committee of four is small but don't worry sometimes that all that's needed. In time this will grow but we advise you to keep the committee fairly small and instead expand the number of volunteers, which at present is 25. A committee of ten to fifteen is probably sufficient for a community as large as yours. It's good that you have a Darndale Facebook Page as this always attracts attention and maybe you might increase your committee or voluntary force by 'advertising' what you do. It's very important to keep it up to date and to promote the work you are doing. Add photo of flowers, insects, vegetables growing, your volunteers working etc. etc. ... anything that relates to your area and your work. We also suggest you put up information of the Community Notice board where you publicise your activities and projects. Instagram is another popular platform so in time perhaps open a page here too. Good that you have the support of state and semi-state organisations, local businesses and local schools. We wish you the very best and hope that the comments in this report are helpful.

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

You are predominately a residential area divide into three parts – Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview – built in the 1970's, so a relatively new settlement. Darndale in turn is divided into five areas - Buttercup, Marigold, Primrose, Snowdrop, and Tulip. There are also two churches, three national schools, a sports club and a number of early education and childcare facilities in the area. There are wonderful pedestrian links between your residential areas and your community areas which ensures that residents meet each other. In addition there is the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre with medical, retail and community facilities. You are also serviced by more local shops etc. in Clonsaugh. The painted utility boxes looked good. We suggest you to do more of this on those which are still unpainted. Perhaps choose a theme which relates positively to your area. The central area of the Darndale Centre is extremely welcoming with the seating, beautiful pollinator friendly planting bed, information notice board and surrounding shops and businesses. We admired the mural of the rainbow and ABC's. These are very suited to block walls so you could look where others would make an improvement to the streetscape. Funding is available for projects such as these. There are very few seats available along the streets/roads. More would be of benefit to the elderly as they go for their walks. Select areas which are overlooked by houses for their locations.

## **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

You have a number of large green spaces in your area. Belcamp Park and Darndale Park being the two largest with sporting facilities provided in both. In addition there is a green corridor on both sides of the Priorswood Road and also on both sides of The Link Road. We visited the Belcamp Garden and noted the amazing work which you, with help from DCC and other groups, have undertaken. What was once a barren space (we looked at Google Streetview of 2023) has now become a wonderful green space with planting beds full of pollinator friendly flowers and plants. In a relatively small area you have created small individual spaces, all different, for the local community to enjoy - a pollinator and native Irish tree planting area, a redesigned herb garden, a nature play space, wildflower planting, and a reflection area. We admired the low protective railings which surrounds the park so that those passing can also enjoy what you have created. We read that it has contributed to anti-social behaviour which is encouraging. Is it you plan to do something like this in other green/barren communal open spaces? Perhaps residents from other areas could be invited to see what the Belcamp residents have achieved and this might encouraged them, with assistance, to do likewise. The planting beds in Moatview Court were in full bloom – congratulations to those involved in their creation. While we understand the difficulty in retaining trees we still encourage you to preserve with help from DCC. The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and there are many places in your area where trees would enhance the buildings and streetscape. Trees are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. By planting and caring for trees, you help reduce pollution, improve your surroundings, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food roosting sites and nesting sites for birds. We admired the garden around St Francis of Assisi RC church and also that of the New Life Centre Church Gardens – two beautifully maintained spaces for the community to enjoy.

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

Hedgerows, trees, stone structures and walls, and grassland in addition to buildings are habitats for birds, insects and small mammals. We mentioned the planting of trees above which we encourage you to investigate with DCC. Perhaps begin in a small area and then over the years expand this. We noted that chemical weed killer had been used around the base of the trees along Priorswood Road. We suggest that a 900mm radius is allowed around each tree. This will not only help those cutting the grass but also be good for nature. We also suggest that some of your green spaces are allowed to grow as wildflower/wild grass meadows which are cut in the spring and then again in the autumn. Needless to say a little pick must take place in these areas prior to them being cut in the autumn. You don't need to put up signs in any of these areas as signs firstly, are clutter in the landscape and secondly need to be maintained – more work for your volunteers. The planting of native hedgerows to assist our wildlife and plants such as blackthorn, hawthorn, holly, spindle, guelder rose etc. are recommended for this. Hedgerows could be planted along the fences in the large parks. It will take a few years for them to mature, but they will be full of flowers from early spring until late autumn and then be wonderful for our pollinators. Check with the local schools and see what activities they are undertaking which you might be able to assist with e.g. you could begin a Fit Count with them – it's a great way to look at our insect life. Check Biodiversity Ireland website for more information and for other ideas for activities and projects for you to undertake.

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

This category where many communities struggle is about being aware of how we use the resources of the planet so that we cut down on our waste. We particularly encourage Tidy Towns committees to lead by example. We were delighted to read that workshops were delivered with students from Our Lady Immaculate Senior National School focusing on planting fruit, vegetables and herbs, as well as bird box making activities. What was the outcome of those talks? It would be good if some of your volunteers would begin to grow vegetables with the various schools. A raised bed for each year and plant different plants in each so that all children can see how easy it is to produce homegrown tasty vegetables. In time perhaps you might consider a Community Garden? We have no doubt that DCC would assist you in this and provide a gated compound so that those who have plots would know that they are secure when they are not around. Here information on planting could be shared and in addition at harvest time, the products can also be shared. The Hare's Corner developed by Burrenbeo Trust provides schools and community groups with materials, guidance, etc., to create features such as mini orchards, mini woodlands, wildlife ponds, etc. We suggest that you examine this and other resource methods to advance in this category. You might also encourage a pop-up shop for school uniforms and sports equipment to be exchanged. An easy project to undertake and one which is very necessary and also sustainable. The Darndale Football Club Garden looked wonderful. Unfortunately, the gates were closed and so we could only look in through the railings, but what we saw, we admired. Well done all who are involved in this garden. Great to see that equipment such as gazebos, tools and equipment is shared which ensures better use of limited resources and funding in addition to reducing the need to duplicate equipment. The garden to the rear of the school is stunning ... well done all who were involved in this project.

## **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

As a new community we encourage you to take part in the An Taisce Annual National Spring Clean. Just register with An Taisce in early Spring and they will send you equipment etc and also (as far as we know) include you on their insurance ... please check this for accuracy. We admire it when groups take part in annual or local LA Clean-Up events as it focuses the mind of the general public of the high amount of litter/fly tipping/ dumping that occurs nationally. You are a large community so unfortunately litter and fly-tipping was noted. We are delighted to see that DCC supports your volunteers and provides them with gloves, bags and litter picking tools. We see that you are targeting areas where there is high volumes of community activity for litter pick-up – the Link Road and The

Village Centre courtyard. In addition the residents of Belcamp litter pick in the new park. We suggest that chicken wire is attached to the base of the Belcamp Park fence (the bottom two boards) which will help to prevent some of the litter being blown into the space from the adjoining waste ground. It is wonderful to see that Darndale Football Club, supported by CE workers, undertake daily litter picking in Darndale Park. While we appreciate that there has been problems associated with the presence of waste bins unfortunately if they are not available some people just throw their litter. We suggest that you re-examine the positioning of litter bins. Could they be located in areas which are overlooked by houses rather than in the middle of open spaces or along open roads?

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

There are large number of houses in your area between Moatview, Darndale and Bellcamp. While the areas are quite distinctive the pedestrian links encourage connectivity between them. It is wonderful to see resident led, planting incentives being undertaken in all three areas and we admired those we saw as we visited. The colourful shrub and floral plants draws the eye and visually improves the areas in addition to being excellent for our pollinators. Take care not to plant in front of estate name signs or road name signs as we must always leave these to be easily read by the passerby. The Moatview Court rockery was noted and admired. Providing a pleasant communal open space as that of Belcamp Garden has not only improved this area visually, but also has provided an area for the residents to visit and meet socially. This is a win-win situation. We encourage other small cul-de-sac communities to make similar places in waste ground near them. If there are residents' associations in the various areas we recommend that you invite one from each to join your committee as this ensure that information of your actions/projects will reach all of the residents in those areas.

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

You are an enclave between the R139, Malahide Road, Clonsaugh Road and Priorswood Road and within that area there is a large network of roads. We loved that there is great pedestrian linkages in the area which, when we visited, were well used, and so the area feels safe for your residents. We noted new rumble strips and dipped paving at some of the road junctions. These dipped paving areas make it easier for those using wheel chairs or mobility scooters and also those pushing buggies to cross the road. Is it planned to have these at all of your road junctions? The two pocket planting schemes along the Link Road are extremely pleasant and we encourage you to undertake more of this to improve the landscape/streetscape.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your area ... in addition to the above we have a few suggestions.

- Ask DCC for a map or download one from the internet (not Google) and use this to indicate the location of your projects. If you need to use two maps to show e.g. the centre at a larger scale because you have more projects there, then that's fine.
- Select the category which BEST suits a project and only put it there i.e. mention it just the once unless there's something very specific that refers to another category. As you develop new project and activities this will become even more crucial.
- When you know more of what you want to achieve with your committee and volunteers make a Darndale, Bellcamp, Moatview Plan. We recommend that you make a Five-Year Plan as many activities/projects take longer than you think to be completed. The plan can show who on the committee will lead the activity/project, and collaborators names as you'll need help from state and semi-state organisations with many of the projects. 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. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition. It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate your area one which we visited many, many years ago when it was newly developed so it was good to return. We look forward to receiving your application in 2027.