

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dundrum - Dún Droma** Ref: **1328**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **241**
Category: **E** Date(s): **16/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	35	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	30	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	20	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	15	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	25	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	20	22
TOTAL MARK	600	221	241

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 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2026. Thank you for participating In Ireland's longest-running environmental project and helping to make Ireland a better place. We really appreciate all the great work that you do and the effort you put in, year on year.

Thank you for all the effort that you have clearly put into your entry this year. Your entry form was very detailed but easy to follow. It is clear that you are a well organised group. It is good to see that you acknowledge the importance of both the use of schools as well as businesses for a Tidy Towns to thrive. In particular, it is great to see that you have a dedicated youth liaison officer, this will help to secure the future of Dundrum Tidy Towns. You utilise social media well and you appear to have good outreach. The specific project that you have identified for particular effort this year is the renovation of library Square. Thank you for the high level of detail you have provided on this project this really makes a difference to your streetscape, well done.

This adjudicator used to travel through Dundrum village twice a day (on bicycle) going to and from work. During this time, it was possible to witness the transformation of the village towards what it has become today. We note that this is your second entry in this modern era but that historically your village was involved in Tidy Towns. It is fascinating to read your very frank account of your purpose and modus operandi today. Reading this, the adjudicator is confident that Dundrum is in good hands.

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

Thank you for the detailed account of your work in this category.

You have taken a stance against dereliction of important buildings and this is a very important role for any Tidy Towns group. Here you also describe your work installing new planters revitalising on Monument and also encouraging active travel. The safe routes to school for HolyCross is exactly the kind of initiative that we hope Tidy Towns groups will take on. It was such a pleasure to see some of the business premises that were once so familiar. Even better was to see them obviously thriving. Dundrum House and Deveney's were once familiar landmarks and they still look just as pleasant and traditional as remembered. Not all businesses have survived, of course. It was sad to see Campbell's shop closed and has been sold. It is very much hoped that the retention of the beautiful old shopfront will be a precondition. The public realm of Dundrum looks really good now. The Corten steel planters on the very wide pavements are very effective. It does feel like there is still much improvement to come, though. The hard landscaped space around Holy Cross Church and the grounds of the church

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your key project for the year is described here once more. Again, congratulations on a most useful piece of work. Also very useful is your work in determining the ownership of green spaces. Such spaces are in short supply in modern Dublin villages. They are none the less extremely important. We encourage you to keep up this initiative, work closely with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and with local residents. This adjudicator is aware of a number of instances where such work has led to the adoption or even creation of new recreational spaces in towns on lands that were previously derelict, overgrown and Heather to unwanted.

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

You introduce here a task that has been taken on by a number of groups and local authorities more and more in recent years. You, along with many other groups have recognised the important resource that are The Fallen Leaves on your streets. You quite rightly point out that the creation of cages in which to compost these leaves is also the creation of habitat. Indeed, it is a range of living things that turns previously unwanted leaves into a useful resource. Leaf mould making is simple and practice and it is incredible to think that it is only now that we are cottoning onto this! Well done for making this happen in Dundrum. Although Dundrum is a densely populated and busy village now, there is also space for quite a bit of birdlife. May we suggest that you partner up with a volunteer from Birdwatch Ireland and maybe with assistance from the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council biodiversity officer, Carry out a survey of the birds of Dundrum. You might also be very surprised if you looked at the invertebrate and plant populations of the many stone walls of Dundrum. This could be a project for you down the road.

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

Thank you for your entry in this category. Here you discuss once again the reuse of fallen leaves and also your work addressing dereliction. We absolutely agree that both are very applicable to this category. You also let us know that your work in maintaining existing street furniture is important in saving resources and using what is already there. Might we suggest that you get in touch with some of the many large retailers in Dundrum and find out from them how they are saving energy and resources? You might be surprised at the initiatives that are ongoing. You might also explore how such businesses might sponsor future events for you such as reuse/upcycle/repair workshops at the library. We also advise you to look at rainwater harvesting facilities ahead of next year's summer months. We are delighted to read that you are partnered with Airfield. This organisation has led the way in so many aspects of sustainability in this part of Dublin.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have done great work in this category. We are really pleased to hear about your well organised antilitter efforts. The Youth Stewardship Program is a very worthwhile partnership with Wesley College. We note your efforts to contain the mess that can arise from the use of black bags on an urban street. Gathering data is a very important role and in this instance (the location of on street bins) will be very useful in settling on the kind of streetscape you want. We applaud your vigilance when it comes to graffiti. The use of the CRM system for logging new tags as they arise is very forward-thinking and it will make the whole process more efficient. This is, we suppose, a modern implementation of the broken window theory. Similarly, your Infrastructure Audit will be invaluable in dealing with both the ESB and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. This is the first time that this adjudicator has come across the term visual noise for such materials, but it is very appropriate! When it comes to the textile recycling banks, these can be very problematic. Bear in mind please that any operators of these must be licenced and you should be able to find out who these people are and communicate with them with regard to suitable maintenance and locations. Almost no litter was seen on adjudication day and given that this was a sunny day with high footfall, this was very impressive. There are a few tidiness issues for your attention. The graffiti tagging we have already mentioned. A post box was also in need of some care. We were impressed by how clean your street furniture – including your 'big belly' bins – was on adjudication day. Bike racks, kerbs and signage were also generally in very good condition. Well done to yourselves and to the local authority for this.

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

Thank you for your information in this category. A new playground is always such a wonderful addition to a residential area. We note that this was completed last year. Here again the CRM system is mentioned. Do all residents have access to this, or is this a conduit through your Group/Resident's groups only? There is a variety of housing stock throughout your area, and this has changed dramatically over the last decade. One imagines that the density of housing in Dundrum is much higher now than when the adjudicator commuted through here. There are doubtless many new residents who called this area home who may not be aware of your work as a Tidy Towns group. We would strongly recommend that you make contact with facility managers and Residents groups as they are formed. This is a great way to integrate the new citizens of Dundrum as well as recruiting new volunteers!

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

Here you tell us about your approach from Windy Arbour. This road is indeed seeing some seismic changes. The move of the Central Mental Hospital from this site will offer great opportunities for housing here but also perhaps for extra green space for all the citizens of Dundrum. You tell us here also that the space on St Columbanus Road is to be upgraded. Do let us know how this progresses. The streets and lanes of Dundrum have changed so much in recent years but still retain much of their original appeal. The stone walls, mature trees and fine buildings still make

this village a most pleasant place to explore on foot or by bike.

Concluding Remarks:

It was great to be back in Dundrum again. Today we arrived thanks to a tram system that was still only in planning when last we commuted through the village. It was great to see how the reduction in traffic on the Main Street makes the village more pleasant to stroll around. While you are only just back in the competition after a period of absence, we can see that your work is important to you and how important it is to Dundrum. We feel that you have more areas of the competition to explore but these will surely come with time. Thank you for all your hard work. It is really appreciated.