

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finglas - Fionnghlas**

Ref: **736**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **360**

Category: **G**

Date(s): **01/07/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	54	56
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	46	47
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	23	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	40
TOTAL MARK	600	347	360

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." Thank you very much for your entry into this year's competition and for including a map with legend, your 3-5 Year Strategy, as well as some lovely photos of your volunteers in action, it is greatly appreciated. Although you have a relatively small number of Committee members and volunteers for the size of your town (7 and 23 respectively), you appear to have forged very strong connections with many other organisations, both statutory and voluntary, which has in turn let to many collaborations, including supporting major celebrations such as involvement with the Christmas and Halloween Festivals in partnership with Dublin City Council. Other partnerships have included helping with La Chéile Arís, with Massey Funeral Home for the Hospice Coffee Morning, with St. Canice's Church Summer Opera amongst others, great stuff! Although you employ many different forms of communications including social media such as Facebook and Twitter, you strongly believe in the power of old-fashioned word of mouth and face to face contact. The younger members of your community are also involved with local schools taking part in the An Taisce National Spring Clean, help with planting and gardening, Transition Year students getting work experience as well as litter picking. The display of the various awards that you have won in competitions such as the North West Area City Neighbourhood Awards were noticed, well done.

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

St. Canice's Cathedral and its grounds looked great, with lovely landscaping and planters and the little grotto area with the statue of Mary was pristine, and the biodiversity bed was looking well and appeared to be attracting plenty of bees, bugs and insects when I was there.

We are delighted that St. Canice's Old Abbey and Graveyard has continued to receive funding from the Community Monuments Fund to help conserve the monument.

The various memorials such as the Irish Republic/Flags of the Easter Rising and plaque in celebration of 100 years of Women's Suffrage in Ireland, as well as the Dick McKee Memorial were spotless.

The photographs displayed by Finglas Photography Group throughout Finglas looked stunning, and a great way of raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity, especially as they are not what you would normally expect to see walking down a busy urban area in Dublin.

In general, the street furniture was in good condition and well maintained, I particularly liked some of the classic black lamp standards, though the bench donated by you in 2014 (with the lovely 'Here the sun Shineth' saying on it) would benefit from a fresh coat of varnish or paint. The nearby Wheelbarrow planter with milk churn was very charming, though I noticed that some of bricks on the paving here were being moved upwards and could present a trip hazard, so it would be good to see if something could be done here to fix this. I also really enjoyed seeing the variety of artwork around Finglas such as the lovely murals, painted electric boxes, as well as the cute and quirky

crocheted bollard covers, so much to admire, well done!

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

I really liked the landscaping along the Ballygall Road; the greenery here helps soften the streetscape and busy road.

I thought the vibrantly painted 'Buddy Bench' was excellent, a very positive way to encourage conversation and hopefully new friendships.

I noticed some of the lovely signs advertising where flower beds are being maintained by Finglas Tidy Town. Not only do these create awareness of all the hard work that you do, but help make passers realise that the many planters, flower beds etc. that are to be seen as you walk around do not happen on their own and hopefully make them appreciate all the labour that these take.

The landscaping at the library was excellent with one of the colourful planters that you take care of noticed nearby. There were some gorgeous round planters on the road opposite SuperValu (apologies I do not seem to have a note of the name of the road)

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

It is great that you are embracing the ethos of pollinator friendly planting to help nourish our bees and butterflies as well as help encourage biodiversity, and that you have taken guidance from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Well done on the work that you are carrying out at 'Woodlands 2' which include some well-done biodiversity beds, and good luck with your application for EU grant funding. The 'Woodlands 1' was admired, a lovely little spot, and the leaf mould cages were noticed with a good explanation of their purpose to help raise awareness.

We would be interested in hearing if you have any data available in relation to your Swift and Barn Owl boxes at the Fire Station, have you seen an increase in numbers etc?

In addition to the fantastic photos by Finglas Photography group, I enjoyed seeing the other nature themed projects as I walked around, such as painted electric box with a lovely illustration of a bee and daisy, as well as the very cute Fox and Squirrel paintings on the recycling bank near the Fire Station.

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

There are many practical examples provided of the ways in which you are embracing sustainability and the circular economy. You practice rainwater harvesting using the water butt at the back of Finglas Village Centre and use this to care for your various floral displays and planting in the main village area. Your polytunnel is being put to great use by growing flowers from seeds here and using the mulch which you have produced using the leaf cages.

Your recycling activities include partnering with Dublin City Council with Amnesty days for items that can be difficult to dispose of such as old mattresses and electrical goods and vapes. The Picker Pals initiative has proved to be extremely popular and it is great to read that there is good take up on this in your area and that you also work closely with Green Schools to encourage sustainability and the principles of 'reduce, reuse, recycle' and great work on the workshops such as the one in conjunction with Global Action.

Some other ideas you could look into in this category would be having 'swop shops' for preloved items such as old sports gear, books, clothes etc. one man's trash can be another one's treasure! Also, you could engage with local cafes and restaurants about encouraging the use of 'keep cups' or refilling water bottles to avoid the use of single plastic ones which often end up in landfill.

In relation to energy efficiency, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's website has a wealth of information in relation to energy efficiency as well as the various grants available to both businesses and residential homeowners, and can be found at www.seai.ie.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

For a well populated busy area with a lot of traffic, I was impressed with the overall litter control in Finglas. Although there are a few areas which attracted empty snack wrappers and tin cans etc. Finglas looked very smart and clean, you are to be applauded for all the work that you do to keep it this way. This includes holding clean ups two mornings and one evening every week, with work undertaken including weeding, litter segregation, sweeping, maintaining planters and flowerbeds, as well as volunteers that litter pick in the core area of the town every morning, as well as St. Canice's Church. Although the majority of graffiti is cleaned up by Dublin City Council, the role you play in highlighting where this is occurring plays an important role in managing it.

Your commitment includes your participation in the Dublin Community Clean-Up Day, and in addition to Tidy Towns volunteers, this also included Transition Year students as well as workers from one of the local companies. You also take part in An Taisce's "National Spring Clean". Well done to all the businesses who are dedicated to keeping their premises clean.

The Recycling Bank area was very clean and tidy apart from a few bags dumped in front of the textiles bin. Congratulations on being awarded 1st Prize in the Dublin City Clean-Up 2025, well deserved.

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

All of the housing estates visited enjoyed a high level of presentation, often coupled with well tended gardens. It is fantastic to read that the residents of Finglas are very involved with the Tidy Towns group and your work, with many having active Resident's Associations. In addition to the work that Dublin City Council does, maintaining and keeping the parks and green areas clean, residents often supplement this with additional cleaning, planting etc. and the biodegradable clear bag scheme by Dublin City Council also helps assist with this work. The Dublin City Neighbourhoods Competition is a fun way to introduce some healthy rivalry across residential areas to present these homes to their best. It is good to read that you are also active in the Finglas Safety Forum which includes

Dublin City Council as well as An Garda Síochána and business owners to help highlight issues such as anti social behaviour etc. as well as environmental issues.

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

The Welcome to Finglas Village sign set in the circular planted bed looked great and gives an excellent first impression as you arrive in the town, with some lovely planting, though there were a few patches that would look even better with some additional planting. As mentioned previously, the memorials on the Seamus Ennis Road were in excellent condition and well presented, and I thought the landscaping along the busy Ballygall Road was most attractive, and I thought the 'Buddy Bench' was such a lovely idea and well executed, and thank you for including the lovely photograph showing the daffodils in full flower. Well done on your various planting schemes such as the Spring

Bulb planting at the N2 slip road, these must look stunning when in full bloom, and it is great to read that you are endeavouring to increase your use of pollinator friendly planting. The wildflower area is a wonderful idea but make sure that the seeds come from a good source and include native Irish flowers. The woodland walk and other initiatives on the Main Street were admired and really create a lovely space here.

Concluding Remarks:

I was not very familiar with Finglas before my visit, but I really enjoyed strolling around and exploring the town , especially the lovely 'Woodlands' projects and seeing all the great work that you are doing, keep it up and best wishes for all your future projects.