

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glasnevin - Glas Naíon** Ref: **1321**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **261**
Category: **B** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	29
TOTAL MARK	600	261

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2026. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhuir n-iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta agaibh in bhuir gceantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhúir dtionscadail amach anseo.

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2026 competition and thank you for your application form, which includes photos, and a hand drawn map and also for the proposal for Cinder's Lane. This is your second time to enter the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition – we missed you last year! We see that you state your population as 1000 and we recommend that perhaps you should include additional residential areas so that you enter into the C or D categories where there are less applicants but really this is up to you. Very good to see that you are engaging with the larger community with a survey of their needs; we hope that the results have given you inspiration. We see that as yet you haven't a social media presence. We recommend that you have your own Facebook page and also Instagram account where you will post items which relate to the village and to activities and projects as you undertake them. An active social media account is necessary for all Tidy Towns Groups to engage with the local community. You are a committee of 8 and your volunteer force is 12-16. This is completely acceptable for a new group (two years is still new to us) and we know in time this voluntary body will grow, so be patient. You list state and semi-state organisations, and businesses who support you. We encourage you to make contact with any youth groups in your area, in addition to that which you already do, as this encouragement will help to develop a pride of place amongst your youth and they may assist you as a body to undertake one or two projects. This is your second year participating in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition and we are delighted to read that involvement in the competition, has led to 'improved coordination of projects, stronger partnerships, and increased community pride'. We hope our reports are of help to you and we encourage you to keep up the good work. See Concluding Remarks for further advice.

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

Glasnevin village core is quite compact extending from Botanic Road to Ballymun Road Lower and with these confines there is a variety of architectural forms of varying ages and design. This, along with the topography of the streets gives Glasnevin village a very interesting village core. You have a noteworthy streetscape comprises of the pyramidal shaped building of the RC church of our Lady of Dolores and the truncated pyramid building of the Mét Éireann headquarters. Terraced single, two and three storey residences sit comfortably alongside your retail, business and medical premises and it is this mix which makes the character of your village. To this we add the grandeur of the Botanic Gardens entrance with majestic gates and piers. Many of the businesses had recently painted their premises, which gave them a very fresh appearance. Some had great displays of colourful hanging baskets which added to the streetscape. We loved to see the activity outside some of the premises where people sat and chatted or just sat and watched the world go by. Well, done on liaising with the Wayfinding Centre to

examine accessibility in the village as part of your walkability audit. We will be interested to see the results of this. We noted some of utility boxes had been painted artistically, which gives great colour along the streetscape. It would be wonderful to undertake this as a project on all of the utility boxes. Choose a theme that references your area e.g. aspects of the Botanic Gardens is ideal. The one showing the flowers and curvilinear glasshouse was perfect. The landscaping surrounding Glasnevin Parish Church was admired – a variety of neatly trimmed, dense, green shrubs, which gives great cover to small mammals. It would be good if the buildings at the junction of the Botanic Avenue and Botanic Road were all painted in the one colour as these three buildings are very important in your streetscape. We were surprised that they were not noted on the Buildings of Ireland register. It would be good to explore 'Washerwoman's Hill' – something for a Heritage Trail?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your wonderful Botanic Gardens is your public park and this oasis of trees, shrubs and flowers along with its amazing glasshouses is available for your community to visit daily. Close by is the green area along St. Mobhi Drive and in addition there are the green spaces associated with Na Fianna GAA grounds, Scoil Catríona and the tree lined green park of the Bon Secours Hospital. You also have access to Griffith Park which is another large open green space with wonderful mature trees and with the Tolka River flowing through, it is also a haven for biodiversity. We walked down Cinders Lane: it's great to see this connection between a residential area and the village. You are in the process of developing this into a new pocket garden which will be wonderful – thank you for the artist's impression of the completed work. We loved the new planting beds in the Glasnevin Hill Triangle and your choice of flowers and plants was admired. When this develops, it will become a very important area on the streetscape. The grounds of St. Mary's Secondary School along with those of the Margaret Aylward Centre are beautiful.

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

We have no doubt that biodiversity is well catered for in the Botanic Gardens and in addition you have the Tolka River with its dense riparian banks adding habitats for insects, birds, small mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. We see that you attend various educational events in the Botanic Gardens. When you open a Facebook Page you will be able to share the information you learnt with the community. You have quite a number of old buildings including St. Mobhi's Cofl church. Are you aware if there are bats or swifts in any these buildings? It would be interesting for you to find out – if you stand at dusk beside any of the old buildings, you will see activity if they are there. Do you know what birds are in your area? Contact the local schools (you have quite a few in your area) and offer to bring each class around the Botanic Gardens or Na Fianna's green spaces to listen to bird song. An easy activity/project for you to undertake which the school children will thoroughly enjoy. They could then make a drawing of their favourite bird which could be displayed in the exhibition space in the Botanic Gardens for a few days. Compliments on being one of the community groups involved in the production of The Tolka: This is Your River and also being involved in the volunteer group 'Treasure the Tolka'.

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

Sustainability, when it was originally introduced was one where Tidy Towns groups were confused. but they soon learned that it's just about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. We need the Tidy Towns committees and their volunteers to lead by example. Good to hear about your series of talks in the Bon Secours Hospital – next time get your logo/name put on the posters so that you get publicity for organising these events. Great to read of the work undertaken in St. Brigid's NS by the pupils and teachers. We noticed the green flags flying in Scoil Mobhi. Do you know how many they have? We recommend that you make contact and see if you could help with a project. We called to see the bees in the Bon Secours but couldn't access the roof – the maintenance man couldn't be located. We read that bee hives also exist in the grounds of St. Mobhi's Church. You mentioned that you have 'leaf-sweeping operations'. Have you asked DCC to supply you with leaf mould compost cages? We assume that you use the leaf mould in your compost? Or at least some of your residents do. We admired the raised planting beds in Glasnevin National School. Different plants for different years. With limited space it was good to see that the teachers had made the effort. We love the idea of the seed library organised by Ballymun Public Library but why don't you now begin one for Glasnevin? Just collect the seeds and give them to residents to plant or you could help the school children to plant these and vegetable seeds in raised beds, made from recycled timbers?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We see that your Tidy Town volunteers take part in the nationwide An-Taisce Spring Clean-Up event and held yours on 25th April this year. Seeing volunteers in their hi-viz vests focuses the mind of the community on the high amount of litter/fly tipping/ dumping that occurs. Your area had some litter but as you are on a busy north/south route this is understandable. But please commend your little pick up team for doing a good job. Unfortunately weed growth was also noted in a few areas – along kerbs and at walls - which detracted a little from the area. Ask the volunteers to also remove weed growth using a spade or hoe and a stiff brush. If this is done regularly, your area would be very well managed. The Notice Board outside the Botanic Garden is where you publicise your activities – we had a look when we visited and see that you inform potential volunteers of your meeting point. Wonderful to read that TY students from St. Mary's Secondary School will be assisting you in your Saturday morning cleanup. It might be a good idea to undertake these litter-pickup events weekly rather than bi-monthly, as a busy area such as yours probably needs this. Congratulations on winning Best Urban Village – this is a wonderful achievement for you. As you say, an award such as this, gives you great encouragement to advance in your activities. It's great to see that on 'little-pick days' you are treated to a cuppa and treats by one of your local businesses. Compliments to the business owner.

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

You are certainly diverse in your residential accommodation. From single storey vernacular cottages to five storey modern apartments blocks the streetscape of you main road is rapidly changing. On your side roads and on St. Mobhi Road houses are primarily two-storey semi-detached, set in gardens behind boundaries of low walls surmounted with metal railings. Here quite a number gardens had neatly cut grass, and colourful herbaceous borders and shrubs. Here we noticed some had specimen trees planted which added to the streetscape. You also have some very pleasant terraced two storey houses with small front gardens where some residents had planted a variety of flowers in herbaceous borders beside the garden path. Some of these were very beautiful and added greatly to the streetscape. We see that you are aware of the importance of our pollinators, so we recommend that you make a list of pollinator-friendly flowers and put this on your Facebook page. The Welcome Packs for new residents are a great idea ... who knows you might get some additional volunteers to join you when they learn of your activities and want to help.

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

We entered Glasnevin from the north and were met by your beautiful shrub and flowers beds along with the cast iron water pump outside the Bon Secure Hospital. Take care that your planting doesn't hide this part of your heritage and only plant low pollinator-friendly plants around it. We were delighted to see the numerous laneways linking one area of the village to another, making it safe for both children and adults to visit friends and access the village without the need to walk along busy roads. We noted a number of newly installed rumble strips and dropped paving at road junctions. These make it possible for those in wheelchairs or using mobility scooters or those pushing buggies to cross roads with ease. Do you know if you're in line for these to be installed at all of your roads? The work to Cinder's Lane will be wonderful, but in the meantime the planting beds at Church Avenue need to be maintained as otherwise this will become an area where people will drop litter. We noticed the work proposed for Cinder Lane, and we suggest that rather than installing the fencing, you would grow creepers along the wall, such as ivy, pyracantha, honeysuckle, cotoneaster, clematis, etc. which will create a biodiversity corridor. The same treatment to be carried out on the rendered wall on the opposite side. We also are of the opinion that the low lighting standards you have selected are unsuitable for this quiet location. You should get advice about suitable lighting.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your area ... but we have a couple of suggestions for 2027.

- Be mindful as to which category you add your projects e.g. information about planting beds, and planting etc. should only be in landscaping.
- Let us know what are New projects and Maintained projects and number them please in each category. New – N1, N2, N3 etc. and Maintained M1, M2, M3 etc. You can then transfer these numbers to your map. Remember you don't need lots of projects – you are a small group of volunteers.
- It's probably time that you made a Five-Year Plan. You don't need a specialist to make this for you, as you are the ones who know your village best. You have undertaken a survey so combine this with suggestions from those who attend your AGM for projects/ activities which would benefit your area. Then make a list of these under the various categories of the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition.

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 Glasnevin Village.