

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Harolds Cross - Crois Aroild** Ref: **2253**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **289**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	20	21
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	600	279	289

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.”

Harold's Cross Tidy Towns are most welcome to the 2026 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition and thank you for your entry form. Your small committee of four members has the support of a further 10 volunteers and you liaise with other local voluntary bodies such as Harold's Cross Community Council and the local resident's associations which helps to ensure good communications and collaboration. You have been entering the competition for seven years and have gained a big increase in support from your local authority and your work has improved your area considerably in that time.

You have recently reduced the area on which you concentrate, resulting in a change in your competition category from E to B. However, your adjudicator believes that the population of the revised area has been underestimated. Even allowing for the reduced boundary, the population appears to exceed the stated figure of 1,000.

Your submission highlights the significant level of development in the village in recent years, including the construction of approximately 800 new apartments. Given this growth, it is likely that the population is considerably higher than the figure provided.

It is therefore recommended that the population assessment and competition categorisation be reviewed ahead of next year's entry.

Your application form was informative and well structured with some photographs showing events and actions taken during the year. You provided directions and three maps. The walking trail map was helpful showing the key landmarks within the village. The other maps showing the location of your projects would have been better combined to one map that is a full A4 in size allowing for clarity. Please remember that your adjudicator needs use the maps when walking in the village to see your work, even in the rain and handling two maps is not practical. You have also included your plan for 2026-2027 which sets out the tasks and actions you hope to work on. In time you might consider a three-year plan with specific projects and timelines based on available resources. It is accepted however that you have a small committee in a very transient area and until you can build a larger base of volunteers, you are concentrating on setting achievable goals.

You have a website and use WhatsApp, email, posters, church newsletters and some leaflet drops to local businesses by way of communication. It is suggested that social media such as Facebook and Instagram would be very helpful in spreading the message of your work, your hope to recruit some volunteers and of your activities. It is a shame that you have had limited success engaging with the local schools. Given that Harold's Cross National School seem to have an active Green Schools Programme and have recently obtained their fifth flag, you might be able to liaise directly with the Green Schools Officer to try and set up some combined projects. It is good to know that Transition Year students work with you at your annual festival specifically helping with the children's face

painting. There may also be some students preparing for the An Gaisce awards who could help you with your regular activities.

Your committee is involved in the many events held in Harold's Cross during the year including the annual Tree Lighting ceremony at Christmas, involvement with Houben House for the collection and distribution of Christmas gifts, the Age Well Group and familiarisation walks in Harold's Cross Park.

You have good support from Dublin City Council both locally and from their head office which is most important as working together to enhance and improve the public realm of the village takes teamwork. Other agencies, businesses and bodies also support you and your work in various ways.

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

Harold's Cross has undergone significant transformation in recent years and although many simply pass through it en route to the city centre, it is also a lived in, busy suburb with a rich architectural mix of 18th-century country houses, Victorian villas, 19th-century artisan cottages, and newer apartments buildings. There are some key Georgian and Victorian institutional properties, many with Mount in the name to reflect some of the landmark properties built on elevated land and this is an example of the rich history and heritage of Harold's Cross. It is well located beside the Grand Canal with plenty of cafes, pubs and the jewel in the crown in the form of the park which occupies the site of the original village green. There are many small cafes and retail shops in the village and they were well presented. So too were the pubs such as Peggy Kelly's, Lysters and the little black and white coffee stop opposite the park.

The significant and ongoing developments have been a key focus for the Tidy Towns committee, and you have been active contributors to many of the local planning applications where they affect the public realm. This is great work and you have had some success in asking for small but important changes to ensure the aesthetic and practical use of the streetscape is retained or improved.

You mention the newly acquired management of a Community Hall which has been renovated by Dublin City Council. The first floor is now a large community space which is a wonderful asset to have. You actively support various activities in the hall. You do not mention where the hall is located so your adjudicator was unable to visit but if there is an opportunity for you to get involved with the upgrading of the grounds of the hall in conjunction with Dublin City Council, this seems like an ideal opportunity to be pursued.

The Bus Connects project is one of significant interest to Harold's Cross as it will likely impact the village to a great extent and your vigilance and arguments to preserve the green spaces and the historic structures, particularly Harold's Cross Bridge are laudable.

You have an ongoing project to upgrade and paint murals on the utility boxes in the area and this will certainly be a big improvement as many of the boxes are in poor condition. It would be nice to see a heritage theme to the artwork on the boxes.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The main green spaces in Harold's Cross are Harold's Cross Park, Our Lady's Hospice and Mount Argus Park. Harold's Cross Park is a lovely space with mature trees, good planting and nicely maintained. It was nice to see the grass had some native wildflowers and the mowing regime was less than it might have been in the past giving the flowers a chance to bloom. The coffee shop here with your new little library are a real treat and the area was getting lots of use on adjudication day with good reason.

Our Lady's Hospice gardens are well kept with a wildflower meadow to the rear. This will certainly help with the overall biodiversity of Harold's Cross. Mount Argus Park too was well presented and some new trees have been planted here to supplement the already fine mature trees in place.

The little space behind the bus stop at the entrance to St. Clare's has some plants but very sparing and without impact or pollinator value. This might be an opportune place to plant some good pollinator friendly perennials, shrubs or even a tree.

Another corner that could be a small parklet is on the corner of La Vere Terrace. The ground may not be available but might be worth investigating.

The landscaping and provision of a playground, thanks to your submissions, in St. Clare's is very good and the redevelopment of the various buildings has been sympathetically completed.

The small triangle green space at the junction of Mount Drummond Avenue and St. Clare's Terrace was clean and tidy but somewhat lacking in colour or interest. The planters on the pavement had little or no planting and here is an opportunity to put good perennial planting that is lower in maintenance and gives year round interest with good height. You may be able to find a local resident who might adopt these and look after them. Many of the gardens in the area are very well kept and look well so there are some green fingers living close by. The grassy area in the triangle would benefit from some more planting and possibly a bench to enhance the space.

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

The Kingfisher Project is a wonderful community educational resource that many of your volunteers give their time to and the mission statement aim 'to turn urban green spaces into places that support nature, food growing, learning and wellbeing' is commendable. Given that biodiversity knows no borders, even adjacent projects such as this one are beneficial to your village.

You spread the word of local services through your WhatsApp groups and this is another example of the benefits of having social media presence. Campaigns such as the Hands off Nature Birdwatch Ireland campaign, advice on planting and organic apple distribution are amongst the messages you circulate.

Well done for your sales of bee-friendly plants at your annual community festivals. The annual Community Festival is clearly a big event and this year it included a bat walk hosted by the Kingfisher Project. Do give us more information about the festival – do you promote the work of the Tidy Towns here and ask for new volunteers or even for residents to 'Adopt a Spot' that they might look after?

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

Although much of your focus is on keeping Harold's Cross clean and tidy, you weave sustainability into your every action insofar as possible.

You circulate information about upcoming events such as the seed swap at Fumbally, workshops in UCD for Biodiversity Week, the Hedgerows Cycle and plant giveaways.

An annual foliage exchange is a great idea with residents swapping plants, cuttings and seeds from their gardens. The book box in the park was restored by a volunteer from the Repair café and was much admired.

Well done for segregating the litter collected into recyclables and other. Do you keep a record of the number of bags collected. It would be good to know if the quantities are decreasing through your concerted efforts.

This is a category where there is plenty of scope for you to increase your marks. It is a broad area and it is often helpful to divide it into the core headings of waste, water, energy, transport and climate action. Do also refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas and guidance.

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.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You rightly state that Harold's Cross has huge footfall as it serves as a main artery in and out of the city. As such you focus heavily on litter picking and cleanups of the areas and receive great cooperation from Dublin City Council who dispose of the bags of rubbish collected.

You held an annual Community Litter Pick in preparation for your annual festival. Due to your vigilance, graffiti incidences have fallen sharply which is great news. Dog fouling is an issue countrywide and you distribute poo bags at your clean ups. No Mutt Mitts or other dog poo bags were noted in the park or elsewhere in Harold's Cross and it might be worth investigating these to help with the problem.

The issue of plastic bags for household waste collections is one that attracts fly-tipping and hopefully the new system due to be implemented will help to alleviate this problem.

Although it was a busy and windy Saturday on adjudication day, there was virtually no litter of any significance noted in Harold's Cross.

There was a build-up of rubbish bags at the bridge outside the estate agents which was unsightly and likely to remain for the weekend.

The entrance to Mount Argus was not particularly clean and the post box outside Mount Argus is badly in need of a refresh. There were also signs of herbicide use here which was a shame.

Harold's Cross Tidy Towns are to be congratulated for their Special Merit award received in the Dublin Community Clean-Up Category and the Urban Village category of the South East City Neighbourhoods Competition 2025.

You are also justifiably proud to have received joint 1st place in the Chief Executive Special Project Awards in recognition of the work you do to keep the streets of Harold's Cross clean. Hearty congratulations for this worthy recognition.

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

There are 12 Residents Associations in Harold's Cross with whom you keep in contact. In addition, you advocate for good public realm at every opportunity. There are many houses throughout the village most of which were very well presented and many with lovely front gardens. Those opposite Mount Argus Park were particularly admired. It is good to hear that many residents have embraced the No-Mow May initiative and have decreased the regularity of lawn mowing. Have you considered organising a best garden competition? This could include a best biodiversity category to encourage biodiversity in the garden and would be a great way to bring the community together.

Where possible all housing estates and developments should have suitable name signs - stones, plaques, sign posts, etc. that are bi-lingual and this is an area that you might use your influence to ensure it happens on any new developments.

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

The welcome to Harold's Cross signs were noted and were in good condition, clean and easily visible.

The audit of footpaths in the area has resulted in potential trip hazards being identified and many have now been repaired or ditched to ensure greater accessibility. Ongoing improvements to the public realm include the installation for safe pedestrian crossings which is a much-needed addition near to the church.

Although there are building works in progress in the village, the streets, roads and lanes were for the most part clean and clear of litter or weeds.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Harold's Cross properly rather than drive through it. Despite the challenges you face as a

committee, your work is making a big difference as evidenced not only by the improved streetscape but also the awards received this year. Well done for your work and you are wished well in your future endeavours and the competition.