

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Malahide - Mullach Íde** Ref: **159**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **409**
Category: **G** Date(s): **21/06/2026**
21/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	64	66
Streetscape & Public Places	80	54	56
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	56
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	46	48
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	26	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	49	51
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	600	394	409

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 comprehensive application form including photos (we loved the view of the streetscape on the cover), map, and your 2026-2030 Strategic Plan – which you tell us is ‘minimal to allow for flexibility’. See Concluding remarks for advice. We were a little confused about your map(s) but finally worked out the meaning. It's ok to have two (or even three) maps on separate A4 pages if that would make your projects easier to locate and the application clearer. Your Malahide Tidy Towns Facebook page has 2.3K followers and we see that it is updated regularly which is crucial for all social media feeds. You have a great number of photos on the Facebook page which always interests the public... well done to your PRO. Your website looks good too – but it's not up to date. Your upcoming events are listed as March, April and May 2024. We love the idea of the annual fundraiser – The Great Malahide Quiz. Having only 8 on the committee seems small for a town of your size but to be honest it's probably for the best, and then have, as you have, a very large number of volunteers. You also have support from a large number of businesses, other voluntary groups, Fingal Co Co and other state and semi-state organisations. It's great that you work closely with the schools – we encourage this with Tidy Towns volunteers. Great to see that with the revival of interest in the Irish language you have embraced this and all your garden names are in Irish. Your participation in the Tidy Towns competition for 40 years is admirable and in doing so you have witnessed a development of pride of place and community spirit. This is the essence of the Tidy Towns competition.

See Concluding Remarks for advice.

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

The core of the town extends from Malahide Castle to the sea and here we have a feeling that we are in a busy village community with commercial, social and residential accommodation sitting comfortably side by side. To the south and west of this, are the residential areas, where the main part of the population are living. We noted a great variety to the streetscape – the wide Mall busy with vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the more calming roads and lanes leading to the sea. With New Street pedestrianised the streetscape has been transformed with outdoor dining areas. The new creative lighting of the Grand Hotel makes for a spectacular display at the end of the Mall – we're assuming the lighting are LEDs? The cotton steel planters and adjoining heron and bullrushes cut outs are beautiful features which enhance the streetscape. Well done on promoting the SDGs. The new signs were noted – Band Walk and Granny Holten Steps. Compliments to the businesses on the presentation of their properties; some had been recently painted and presented very well. Planting and floral displays enhanced many of the businesses –

please compliment them for making such an effort to present Malahide in such a positive manner. We suggest that others might be encouraged to do likewise – some were a little drab. What a wonderful 'haven of tranquillity' to have within your town - Malahide Castle and Gardens are truly amazing and we have no doubt that with pride, the National Public Sector Tourism Impact Award 2026, was accepted. The 'Happy to Chat' bench was noted. A lovely idea.... maybe one for other seats around the town?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are great number of green spaces in Malahide with the Castle grounds being the most dominant. In addition, there is the wonderful Village Green beside the sea, where families gather, children play and both young and old enjoy just sit and admire the view. Well done on removal of the invasive Cherry Laurel (*Prunus Lauroceracus*) from the Castle Demesne woodlands. The work you've carried out in the green space in front of the Grand Hotel is admirable. This area was ear marked by you for improvements and the planning has proved very successful. Sometimes projects take time! The grasses and flowering shrubs have been carefully selected. We loved the Corten steel containers and raised beds. You also have Gairdín Leigheas and Gairdín Aeráid, and in the latter, we see the Corten steel sculpture in amongst such exotic plants as banana and ginger. Unfortunately, the gates were closed, so we only got to look at An Gairdín Leigheas through the railings and take some photos. The views from Seamount Park are spectacular both to the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains and to the sea and Lambay Island. We looked for, but couldn't find, the fruit trees planted by the Sea Scouts and so we assume they were in the long grass. We recommend that the grass around these trees be trimmed back so that they have a chance to grow. We noted the new trees at the Village Green and we caution on planting too many trees in this area, which we feel will detract from the openness of the Green where there are great views to the marina and sea which should be retained – this vista is part of the charm of the Village Green. The photo of the orchids at Robs Wall shows the beauty of leaving grass uncut. We visited the Sacred Heart Church and admired the work carried out by Seabury Tidy District Group in renovating the garden at the side of the building.

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

While being a large town there are quite a variety of habitats for birds, insects and mammals to flourish – stone walls, hedge rows, open green areas, wonderful mature trees, the long coast line and estuary which stretches from Portmarnock to Swords and of course, the wonderful grounds of Malahide Castle and gardens. Caves Marsh, raised bog, SAC and SPA, on your doorstep, is a 12 acre site and a sanctuary for migratory birds such as Snipe and Little Egret. Well done on organising the guided talk of this important site. The oyster restoration is an interesting new project which hopefully, in time will improve water quality of the estuary. Do you know if the faith communities are supporting biodiversity in faith grounds? The booklet Havens For Nature published by the Heritage Council shows how faith communities can turn their properties and grounds into places where nature and heritage can thrive together. We encourage a no mow policy but this need not be confined to May. We suggest that it be rotated and that some areas are No Mow May while others are No Mow June or July. We suggest that you encourage residents to approach their gardens with this in mind. Perhaps rotate the estates? In this way a variety of wild flowers and grasses will become apparent. We look forward to hearing of progress on the success of the Fingal swift project

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. It's good to see that local producers are been used by the various hospitality providers. This cuts down on travel associated with products from overseas. We read that FCC provides waste wood for you to use in some of your projects eg Cúig Chrann Dhúchasach. This is a great collaboration you have with your local authority. Is there a community garden in Malahide? We have no doubt that the local authority has an area of a few acres which would be suited for this. Not only with people be physically active, produce vegetables, fruit and flowers, but also the interaction with other growers is beneficial to mental health. Climate change education has become a focus of your group and it's good to see that those members who attended various conferences and seminars now make themselves available to other community groups for talks or articles. Great that you have a Malahide Reusable Cup – hopefully it will gather momentum, and you will see café goers using them. Are any of the hospitality providers part of Refill Ireland? We didn't notice any signs. Compliments to the children in Seabury on making new Christmas cards from the previous year's cards. The leaf mould composting cages were noted at the Band Walk. The location of the new bicycle racks and bicycle repair stand at the Village Green is perfect – well used on the day we visited. We looked for a public water refill station ... are there any provide by FCC? If not, something to request.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We're delighted to read that you take part in the An Taisce Annual National Spring Clean. We strongly encourage groups to take part in 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 could also get individuals in the community to register for the #2minutestreetclean also organised by An Taisce. As a popular destination footfall is high all year round in Malahide, which is challenging for the community in terms of litter. The local authority's operations with increased machine cleaning and additional little wardens is noted. Nonetheless Malahide Tidy Towns volunteers are kept busy and when we visited, we're delighted to report, that litter was minimal. The graffiti artists exists in most large towns, and the trick is to clean or paint over the 'artwork' as quickly as possible to discourage them. We look forward to seeing the success of the service box wraps – let us know next year's application if it was successful. The vape tabs are the new litter problem. We admire your solution. It's great to see so many Big Belly bins in Malahide, all being used. While there was very little litter, unfortunately, weed growth along the edges of walls and kerbs was noted. These are easily removed using a brush and shovel so

please encourage your volunteers to do this. One such area we noted (and there were lots), where there were overground grasses and weeds, was on Granny Holten Steps. These steps must be kept open and usable. It was disappointing to see that the two utility boxes which had been recently painted, in a beautiful artistic manner with underwater scenes, had two panels attached to the front by the service provider. Would it be possible to have them removed and fixed to the timber panelling beside the boxes? Something to ask of the service provider?

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

There are large numbers of residential estates located primarily to the west of your town. Here residents have made a huge effort to display their properties, including some which were recently painted. Gardens in the mature estates have great displays of perennial and annual flowers, colourful shrubs, and mature trees. Some of the trees are ornamental and are features in the streetscape. In the new estates e.g Auburn Wood, planting has been carried out by landscape contractors, and when these estates mature, these too will become a haven for nature. Generally communal open spaces were well presented with grass trimmed and a variety of trees planted. It would be good to see some seating provided in most of these open spaces where the community, particularly the youth, could gather and chat. We suggest that grass areas not required for play could be allowed to grow to provide a variety of grasses and wildflowers for our insects and birds. Just trim around the edges to show that the area is being managed and not left wild and unkempt. Unfortunately chemical weed killer had been used around some trees, poles, etc which left unpleasant burnt grass appearance. We strongly recommend this practice be stopped and that residents are informed of your 'Sustainable Care' policy. Where there are blank boundary walls along the road sides or into estate entrances we suggest that pyracantha, ivy, or other climbing plants be grown which will give nesting sites, food and cover to insects and birds. Well done to Malahide Tidy Towns and Dublin Airport Association Community Fund, for distributing perennial shrubs to various Residents Associations. We were told to 'Leave Room in the Garden for the Fairies to Dance' by one resident – we loved her/his little pocket garden which we know, must be loved by every child who sees it. The houses located along the streetscapes had climbing plants, planters with a variety of shrubs and flowers identifying doorways and colourful window boxes or hanging baskets which added to the beauty of the town.

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

Coming from the south we were welcomed by the Lions Club discrete sign – trim back the branches which are slightly encroaching. The sylvan entrance along this road is quite beautiful as we pass by the old perimeter wall to the castle. We also loved the entrance along Estuary Road which gives a great view too, including out to sea. The estuary itself had a large number of swans and close by two men paddle boarding – space for all. The walkway which extends from Malahide to Swords was well used and we took time to sit, have a picnic and enjoy the view. It's good to see that one of the junctions along the Dublin Road has been improved and hopefully this will increase the safety for all road users particularly those who are most vulnerable – cyclists and pedestrians. We read with interest the information panels on Bisset's Strand on the proposed Malahide to Donabate Greenway– this will transform the estuary and hopefully won't detract from it. Road surfaces were fair but in some areas we noted edge break up and tarmac unravelling. This is something to be brought to the attention of the area office. Road markings too are a little worn and will need to be repainted shortly. Make a list of where they are worn and give this too to the area office. In a busy town, where there is a lot of vehicular traffic, it is difficult to keep road surfaces and road markings in top condition. We understand the reasoning behind the large number of planting troughs along the entrance road where we have no doubt that cars would park on the pavement. Good to see the disabled and age friendly parking bays but some of them need to be repainted.

Concluding Remarks:

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

- In your Plan we suggest that it's better to have a number of projects/activities listed under each category with a member of the committee who will lead the project/activity and the names of collaborators who will be needed to bring the project/activity to termination. Every year a tick can be put after the project/activity if it has been completed or progressed. In this way you can see an advancement in you plan.
- We were delighted to see that you had limited the number of projects/ sites for the adjudicator to visit. But remember in order to make the application more user friendly it's acceptable to have more than one map. Each of the maps could be on A4 with the legend attached. Please also put a North point on the map – just for clarity. 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 Malahide, a town we have visited many times as a tourist and love to see the work and improvements undertaken.

Second Round Adjudication:

It is always a pleasure to visit Malahide, even more so on a sunny summer afternoon. Malahide was looking glorious in the sunshine when I visited and was bustling with people out enjoying a stroll on the promenade or relaxing. The promenade area was spotless, despite the number of people around, no doubt this was helped by the many bins available to dispose of any waste, so absolutely no excuse for anyone to litter. There are some little touches that elevate the area such as the lovely bollards painted a really nice nautical blue, and the boxes painted with sea scenes, as well as some interesting sculptures to see. The landscaping on the green was very attractive and the round 'Happy to Chat' bench was admired, a great idea. The An Gardin Aeráid was absolutely gorgeous, and I was glad to see that you are letting people know that your Tidy Towns group is involved, hopefully will inspire more people to get involved with your work.

There was a nice boat that had been recycled as a planter feature 'Miss Kitty' which would benefit from fresh planting. I really enjoyed my stroll along the Band Gardens Walk area, and some of the wooden sculptures to be seen along here were fantastic, as was the landscaping. I also spotted the leaf mould composting cages which must help a lot with nourishing the many planting displays that you have.

you are also doing great work in relation to the habitats in the area as well as being conscious of the need for pollinator friendly planting for our bees, butterflies and other insects. Some of the projects being carried out include the Oyster restoration project to help increase water quality in the estuary, so important for local sea and wildlife, and it is good to see that you are engaging with the Local Authority Water Programme (LAWPRO). The success of the Caves Marsh Talk also shows the interest there is in learning more about the environment around us, and it sounded like a very informative and interesting event.

Many of the commercial premises were excellently presented, John Gibney's Pub was striking with red paintwork and beautiful floral displays with a nice outdoor seating area, New Street Coffee shops was very charming with all the coloured butterflies outside, and others which caught the eye included The Orchid Restaurant and Gilbert and Wright as well as Robyn's Nest, and the EBS building.

it is a pity to see that you are having to deal with a variety of invasive species such as Cherry Laurel and Buckthorn shrubs, but you seem to have a good strategy to deal with these.

There are a wide variety of house types to be seen in Malahide, but all those seen were presented to a very high standard. There are some beautiful houses and gardens to be seen on Windsor Terrace and Castle Terrace, and of the more modern developments, Fisherman's Green, Malahide Marina Village, The Old Golf Links, and Mayfair were admired.

The entrance to the Grand Hotel was superb, full of flowers and colour, and it was fantastic to see the display nearby by Malahide Tidy Towns illustrating the Sustainable Development Goals and their importance in order to help raise awareness of them. All of the approach roads to Malahide were well maintained and presented, particularly along the Estuary Road, and there were some lovely planters to be seen throughout the town, and the floral displays on the bridge near the Dart Station as you approach the town were stunning. Malahide is a beautiful town that still retains the feel of a village with some beautiful buildings and green spaces to enjoy.

Your 5 Year Strategic Plan table is very well set out, showing what you hope to achieve over the next Five years by category, and we wish you the best of luck in achieving these, as well as all your future endeavours.