

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oldtown - An Seanbhaile,** Ref: **1902**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **274**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	37	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	37	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	34	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	26	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	26	27
TOTAL MARK	600	261	274

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, photos, and map. Next year insert the photos into the application form. Get a young person to do this if you don't know how – PRO for Oldtown Tidy Towns will look good on their CV. Good to see your Facebook page is active to keep the community interested - this is vital for all social media feeds. You are a committee of six and your volunteer force of 20, from the ages of 9 to 80, is admirable for a village of your size. We are delighted that you engage with the whole community as in this way, you will have their backing. You list state and semi-state organisations, and businesses who support you. You are in contact with your local school and we encourage you to also make contact with any other youth groups and with the GAA. This engagement will help to develop a pride of place amongst your youth. This is your fifth year participating in the Tidy Towns competition and we are delighted to read that participation in the competition, has brought the community closer together and has stimulated interest in the local environment and in biodiversity. We hope that 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:

Oldtown is an elongated village with a central triangular core of single and two storey vernacular houses and commercial units. Here too we find the very beautiful thatched cottage with a protruding porch and rear section, also thatched beautifully. In addition to the RC church of Our Lady Queen of Peace with its stunning Harry Clarke windows, you also have a number of historical architecturally important houses and structures, including the beautiful bridge and adjacent water pump. Don't allow the ivy to encroach on the pump walls. Oldtown Community Hall is central to your community and having the only open public space in the village core, this building is important to you. Well done on the work which you have undertaken over the past couple of years making this building a wonderful place where the community can meet. The hard landscaping space with the panels celebrating you as the first village in Ireland to receive electrification in 1947 is beautiful. A safe place for children to play. Next project hopefully is the installation of seating? We admired the milk churns at the road junction – a simple statement connecting you to your rural past. The white painted capping stones to the wall brightens this area of your roadway, but be warned, now that you've started you'll have to continue. It would be good to complete, artistically, the painting of the substation doors in Clonmethan Green estate. This treatment would also add to other utility boxes in your village. This has been done by many communities, but firstly, you must ask permission. Like many small villages you have an unfinished housing estate and we see that you are hoping to have a positive outcome for this area

shortly. The mural on the container in the schoolgrounds was admired – a bright wall of beauty for the children.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

While you don't have a village green or park there are communal green spaces attached to your residential areas where children can gather and play. We visited all of these and were generally pleased by the standard of maintenance carried out. But we felt they were lacking in trees. The main structural elements in the landscape and one of the main structural elements in a streetscape are trees. Trees are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. By planting and caring for trees, you help reduce pollution, improve your surroundings, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food roosting sites and nesting sites for birds. In addition to the communal green spaces, close to the village core are the grounds of Wild Geese GAA Club, although when we visited, we weren't able to access the grounds as the gates were padlocked. It would be good if these were made available on a daily basis to the children in Oldtown so that they could walk there, meet their friends and play. If a walking track was provided around the grounds then it would also be used by the whole community. There are various grants available for walking tracks around GAA grounds - enquire from FCC. You have a number of planting beds with colourful plants around the village which we admired - the stone surround planting bed at the entrance to Shamrock Park had a wonderful mixture of pollinator-friendly flowers and when we visited, it had butterflies, bees and other insects visiting. We read that a local business donates flowers and plants - on your behalf we thank them.

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

With the woodlands, green spaces, mature trees on your approach roads, hedgerows, Daws River and numerous stone walls and stone structures, you have a great selection of habitats for insects, birds, mammals and invertebrates. We see that you are studying your area and have now installed bat boxes at the Community Hall. Let us know if they have become home to any bats. We have no doubt that in some of your old houses or surrounding farm sheds there are bats and probably swifts. Ask the owners if you could visit any survey them for activity. It might be interesting to study old maps and see if you have historical hedgerows which can be extended to improve biodiversity corridors for the bats and other night time prowlers. Do you know what birds are in your area? Contact the local school and offer to bring each class around the school yard to listen to bird song. An easy activity/project for you to undertake and the school children will thoroughly enjoy the activity. They could then make a drawing of the favourite bird they heard which could be displayed in the Community Hall for a few days. The importance of our pollinators is now widely accepted so we recommend that you make a list of pollinator-friendly flowers and distribute this to the residents.

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

This category of Sustainability is one where Tidy Towns groups were confused when it was originally introduced. 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 ask the Tidy Towns committees and their volunteers to lead by example. We see that you have a seed and plant swap where residents bring unwanted seeds, which they have collected and plants which they no longer need and give these to others. This 'Leave One, Take One' began with book swaps and we are delighted to see that you have extended this to seeds and plants. We noted the water butt at the back of the hall. You certainly needed it this summer. Have you others that you can access to water your planting beds and baskets? Truthfully nowadays every downpipe should have a water butt attached. The leaf mould compost cages in the communal green space of Shamrock Park were noted. Will you use this in your compost and then in your planting beds or what is your plan for this leaf mould? Will FCC remove these cages? Good to see fresh farm eggs were for sale. Do you know if you have any beekeepers in your area who sell their honey locally?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We assume that your Tidy Town volunteers take part in the nationwide An-Taisce Spring Clean-Up event? Seeing volunteers in their hi-viz vests focuses the mind of the general public on the high amount of litter/fly tipping/ dumping that occurs nationally. Your area was virtually free so please commend your little pick up team for doing a good job. Weed growth was noted in a few areas, but did not detract hugely from them. Ask the volunteers to also remove weed growth using a spade or hoe and stiff brush. If this is done regularly, your area would be well managed. The black and yellow painted wall capping needs to be redone as it is now quite worn. It's great to see that on 'big little-pick days' you are treated to a cuppa and treats by one of your local businesses. It's wonderful to see this community support and see that you are appreciated for your work. Compliments to the business owner.

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

The residential accommodation in Oldtown along the main roads consists of detached single or two storey houses set in their own sites. Many of the residents had painted their premises recently, including their front walls, which made them very presentable on the streetscape. We admired that many had also had made an effort in their landscaping and had pollinator-friendly herbaceous borders with neatly tended grass. In some gardens we noted that grass had been allowed to grow and here we saw a mix of wildflowers – clover, daisy, self-heal, bird's-foot trefoil etc. You have a number of small housing estates – Shamrock Park, Weston Park, Oldtown Avenue, Clonmethan Green etc. Tall flowers and shrubs should be placed at the sides and rear of estate names and only low flowers in front, as otherwise the name is hidden behind flowers/shrubs. One resident in addition to planting beds had an array of colourful hanging baskets with a variety of flowers full of nectar. There are a few blank walls along entrance roads and adjacent to communal open spaces which would benefit from climbing plants, such as

variegated ivy, pyracantha, wisteria etc. This will not only reduce the need for maintenance of the wall, but will also be good for our pollinators.

We noticed the new seat at the edge of the green in Shamrock Park. While it is wonderful to see a seat on the streetscape, we hope that additional seats will be added to the communal open space so that parents can sit while their children play on the grass. We suggest that you examine areas in your village, which would benefit from seating /picnic benches so that people can gather and chat. We admired that residents from Shamrock Park can access the village via a pedestrian link. It's good to see that some residents' associations will create wildflower meadows - encourage all estates to do likewise.

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

We entered Oldtown from the south, along a road bordered on both sides by mature trees and beautiful tall hedges with an array of wildflowers. We were delighted to see that the footpath extends out beyond the 50km roadside making it safe for villagers to walk from here to the centre of the village. We note, however that in order for residents in Clonmethan Lodge to access the village, they must use cars. We hope that soon the footpath will extend as far as this residential facility, and we encourage you to continually engage with FCC in relation to this. Trim back the trees and shrubs that are encroaching on the 50km signs so that they are completely visible to the oncoming motorists. The stone surround beds at the village name signs are quite beautiful, but be careful not to plant flowers which will grow tall and so hide the village name. We suggest that some trailing plants would add to these planting beds. Along a number of roads we saw well-trimmed hedgerows and mature trees which add to the area. Road surfaces and road markings were generally presentable on the main road (R122) but on side roads there was edge break up and ravelling and in many areas road markings were worn. These need attention and we suggest you survey your village and map where attention by FCC is required.

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 be in landscaping.
- Only include projects/activities in the application form, which are either New or Maintained, and all Future Projects or Activities are to be in your Five-Year Plan.
- 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. At your AGM ask those present for suggestions 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 Oldtown – our first visit to your area.