

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Phibsborough - Baile Phib** Ref: **2196**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **360**
Category: **F** Date(s): **06/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	50	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	44	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	27	29
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	42	44
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
TOTAL MARK	600	348	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.”

Phibsborough Tidy Towns are most welcome to the 2026 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition and thank you for your entry. Your application form was full of well-structured and relevant information with colourful photographs showing the events, activities and projects you have been involved with during the year. Thank you for taking the advice of last year's adjudicator and marking the projects on the map itself with a legend of the main landmarks where projects were located. A further improvement would be to have the legend only on a separate page and ensure the map is the full A4 page by removing any working from it. That said, your adjudicator was able to find your projects without difficulty.

The volunteer support who assists your 14 strong committee is excellent with various subgroups concentrating on particular areas of interest and expertise. This is an efficient and practical structure ensuring the committee is not tasked with more than it can handle and that there is inclusivity within the community. You have myriad stakeholders amongst agencies, bodies and local businesses and you receive great support and work closely with the local schools, sports clubs and the Men's Shed.

You have been the recipients of a number of Community Group Awards and congratulations to Catherine McKee, your long standing PVTT volunteer who was joint winner in the 'Individual Contribution' category at the Dublin City Council Neighbourhood Competition 2025.

You have good communication methods across a variety of mediums, and your social media following is very good with some great, relevant and up to date posts. Your engagement with St Peter's National School includes the installation of rainwater planters projects, the Panama Scouts help out at your Buzzfest and you also support Transition Year students and ensure there are opportunities for them to participate and help at events. It is good to see that you also ensure there are activities for younger members of the community at your Buzzfest and the annual Christmas Sustainable Tree celebrations. Your involvement in the Tidy Towns competition since 2015 has helped to formalise the work of the Phibsboro Village Climate Club and has enabled you to form collaborations with Dublin City Council and others.

One specific project you have identified this year is the Energy Clinic which will be discussed further under the relevant category.

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

Although your adjudicator has driven through Phibsborough many times over the years, this was the first time to actually spend some time strolling around and looking at detail at the lovely Victorian redbrick architecture and the

green spaces including the lovely Blessington Basin and the linear park. Adjudication took place on a busy Saturday afternoon in June and the village was lively with plenty of activity. Phibsborough suffers with some dereliction, much like any other town or village and you have highlighted and support efforts to try and resolve the sometimes-complicated issues that cause such dereliction. There are however many thriving retail shops and cafes in Phibsborough and they were all well presented and nicely maintained. Wooden planters with good planting were noted on Phibsborough Road although one or two appear to have been damaged and might need some refurbishment. The results of your survey of local businesses and institutions to gain an understanding of the measures they are taking to reduce their carbon emissions were a pleasant surprise to you as many are engaged in positive ways. You used the results to promote your annual Sustainability Festival, Buzzfest, in the form of posters which you then displayed at the festival. This is a great initiative, and you hope that it will encourage others to look more closely at their energy usage and take steps to be more sustainable in their activities. Additionally you are encouraging local businesses to avail of the free energy audits offered by SEAI. In time you might record results and review them on a regular basis to ascertain what changes and improvements have been made.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have only small pockets of available green space, nonetheless you make the most of those you do have. The Great Western Square is a lovely green park with mature trees and is quite an oasis. The Serenity Garden is a great example of a community working together with a common cause and it was much admired. It was heartening to know that all members of the garden who maintain allotments use organic methods only, they compost, grow fruit and vegetables, share recipes and meet once a month for a clean-up and refreshments.

In places, containers and barrels were noted on the grass. Where possible it is preferred that containers are used only on hard surfaces where planting directly into the ground is not possible otherwise it is better, more sustainable and infinitely less maintenance to plant directly into the ground.

Well done to the residents of Avondale/Spire Avenue who installed a planter with permission from Dublin Simon Community to use their space and with the support of Dochas Centre/Irish Prison Service who donated flower boxes and flowers.

The Blessington Basin and Linear Park are very valuable assets in Phibsborough and you have been engaging with Dublin City Council with regards to concerns over algal blooms and new planting schemes. The resulting special event on the ecology of the area with a community workshop is a wonderful project to help raise awareness on the diversity of birds and habitats in the Blessington Basin.

Mount Bernard Park was visited, and it is well maintained with a great playground that was in full use on adjudication day. The information board in the park was very clean and fresh looking but lacking somewhat in information. Perhaps this is an opportune space for PVTT to post notices, events and tips on sustainability.

The garden in front of the library was also much admired and it is clear that new planting has been carried out here. It might be good to paint the railings to complete the look.

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

Villa Bank Biodiversity Garden is a lovely haven of biodiversity and was certainly abuzz on adjudication day.

Leaving the dead plant material is a good action in terms biodiversity creating essential habitats, enriching the soil naturally, and supporting local wildlife as well as providing shelter for overwintering insects.

The Climate Action Project in collaboration with Shandon Pitch and Putt and supported by Dublin City Council is a wonderful project which rightly overlaps in more than one category of the competition. The project included the laying of a dead hedge, a green waste system, upgrading of the clubhouse lighting and installation of native hedgerow and bat maternity roosts following a bat survey.

The importance of hedgerows is often underestimated especially in urban areas, but urban hedgerows are not only just as important as their rural cousins but should be front and centre of hedgerow conservation efforts for the benefit of the environment and for the residents. Your urban hedgerows awareness raising event is a worthy project and hopefully will have raised awareness and informed the community of their importance. It is also good to hear that one of your volunteers attended a hedgerow laying course to be able to support the initiative.

You have many other initiatives in this category included biodiversity talks for Buzzfest, an annual native plant giveaway and a bat walk to name just a few. The meitheal event and meet ups in the garden at the Villa Bank Biodiversity Garden are another great idea and hopefully encouraged members of the local community to get involved.

The poster campaign was much admired and is a simple but effective way of educating and informing on the steps that can be taken at home and in the community to increase biodiversity.

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

The goal of living more sustainably influences every aspect of daily life, and as a result, is reflected across all categories of the Tidy Towns competition. This commitment is clearly evident throughout your application, where sustainability considerations are integrated into a wide range of projects and initiatives.

Your triple SEC with Connecting Cabra and Cosybatter is a wonderful and ongoing partnership with a view to promoting the Warmer Homes Schemes in the area. You have organised an energy clinic with presentations and individual consultations to give advice and you are hopeful that the results of the event will be very positive as no doubt they will.

You have listed many projects in this category also undertaken by the Phibsborough Village Climate Club embracing the Circular Economy, Sustainability and Biodiversity. Your mission 'Act local, think global' is excellent and one of your main objectives is to work towards the decarbonisation of Phibsborough. This year you have continued to action or develop projects such as the promotion of SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems), the energy

master plan, Citizen Led Renovation, cycling project, and the aforementioned Buzzfest.

The idea of the Trishaws to encourage older people to avail of sustainable transport is a novel one and the project in conjunction with the Shandon Pitch and Putt Club was also excellent.

Your review of the Energy Masterplan after five years is laudable particularly as you undertook a skills assessment exercise in terms of the committee capabilities.

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 and the PV Climate Club have demonstrated this by sharing their experience and knowledge with the wider sustainability community.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your recognition of the fact that your organised monthly clean-ups are not only the ever-important street cleanups but also an opportunity to fulfil important community functions such as instilling a pride of place and bringing residents together making them feel as part of the community and enabling them to feel a sense of possession of their streets is testament to your understanding of one of the missions of the Tidy Towns competition.

This collaborative approach extended also to a talk by the PVTT members to the Berkeley Road and surrounding area residents to help overcome dumping.

You also have special collaborative clean up events including the An Taisce National Spring Clean and Phizzfest.

You see these events as positive experiences involving all ages in the community.

The success of your initiatives was evident on the streets of Phibsborough which were remarkably clean and tidy and a credit to all of the volunteers. One exception were the litter bins outside Mount Bernard Park that were full to overflowing with more rubbish dumped on the ground. The litter bins themselves here could also do with a refresh.

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

The idea of a pilot schemes Street Play event by Dublin City Council was supported by PVTT who provided refreshments and was a great idea allowing a number of streets in the area to be closed to traffic and allow children to play for the afternoon. The photographs you have included are reminiscent of times gone by and a very welcome scene.

It is great to know that many neighbourhoods have their own events including special clean ups, summer parties, street feasts and even Halloween outdoor movies. Your adjudicator especially liked the idea of the Spring Fling to encourage residents in Connaught Street to brighten up their street. The 'Think Outside the Box' window box competition was also brilliant and indeed many lovely window boxes were noted and admired on the day of adjudication. The children were also included with a competition to paint and decorate biodegradable paint pots and to plant them up.

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

The approach to dealing with the issue of bins on the North Circular Road was collaborative and led to remarkable results with businesses adjusting their use of bins, not leaving them out when there was no collection and in all the co-operation was excellent. There are still issues to resolve in the long term but progress to date has been very good.

The issue of dumping is a major one and you liaise with Dublin City Council to try and highlight it as well as using your social media posts to try and discourage the practice.

Concluding Remarks:

Phibsborough offers a unique blend of historic charm and contemporary urban living and the rich tapestry of culture, urban living and a strong sense of community is undoubtedly very well supported by the Tidy Towns members and many volunteers. It was a pleasure to visit and to sense the great pride and sense of community spirit. Your work is commendable and after just five years of entering the competition, you perform very strongly as a result. You are wished well in all your future endeavours and in the Tidy Towns competition.