

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Portrane - Port Reachrann	Ref:	157
County:	Dublin	Mark:	272
Category:	C	Date(s):	01/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	29
TOTAL MARK	600	258	272

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 application form with photos, and maps and for the additional photos sent in a separate document. You are a committee of 6 with a voluntary force of 6 which is small for a population of over 1,200. We suggest that you put up notices in the local retail/public house/take away and ask for volunteers just for one specific project. This sometimes encourages people to join when they know it's not long-term. Your Facebook page has 1.1K followers and we see that it is updated regularly which we encourage as having a strong active social media presence helps to attract new volunteers by 'advertising' what you do. Instagram is another popular platform for younger people so in time perhaps open a page here too. Good that you have the support of state and semi-state organisations, local businesses and hopefully, in time, transition year school students. This is your six year entering the SuperValu tidy Towns competition and we are delighted that the volunteers get positive comments from residents and visitors. We have no doubt that participation has played a central role into shaping your village and helping the community.

See Concluding Remarks for advice for your 2027 application and map.

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

Your village core is quite small but here there is a wealth of heritage – St. Catherine's Church, Stellas Tower/Castle, the beautiful houses of Grey Square, and of Portrane Avenue, and close by you have a Martello Tower and Round Tower in addition to the wonderful buildings associated with St. Ita's Campus. We see that you liaise with FCC on various matters which affect your streetscape and as some areas in the village are not in the control of FCC, here you liaise with the private owners and work with them to improve the areas. It will be wonderful when a path is provided giving access to the heritage site of Stellas Tower (Bobs Castle) which is on the Donabate Portrane Heritage Audit. We saw this comprehensive 158 page document on the FCC website and read the sections which related to Portrane. Many of the businesses premises in the village had painted their premises which presented well in the streetscape – St. Ita's Hospital entrance walls, piers and railings, The Brook public house, and Pipers. The area around the anchor (from the RMS Tayleur) is quite beautiful and as it's centrally located in the village it is a focal point for your visitors. The stones in the gabions being carefully selected to represent your coastal location. The Village Green is lacking in seats. This green would be well used if people could sit and chat. At present we noted only one seat. Seats should be provided in the centre of this space as well as along the perimeter so that parents can sit while their children play. Compliments on the work to the cottage on Portrane Road. The stone surround

planting bed compliments the cottage. We noted a desire line made by pedestrians in the Green at Burrow Road – a concrete/tarmac path is needed. The planting along the Burrow Road inside and outside this Green was beautiful – a beautiful selection of pollinator friendly plants and flowers. The picnic bench was noted. We loved the brightly coloured mural in your pocket park on the Main Street.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have a large number of green spaces with Portrane Green being central to the village core. In addition you have communal green spaces associated with your housing estates and then there's the large area associated with St. Ita's Hospital and here we find wonderful mature trees and great tall hedgerows. The green bicycle at the cottage with its yellow basket laden with flowers looked good. The Alarm sign on the wall detracts somewhat from the area - remove it or relocate it on the modern gate. The timber framed raised flowerbed near the bus stop at St. Ita's Hospital entrance was in full flowers and had a variety of butterflies and bees visiting. We admired the freshly painted green railings around the communal open space of Longstone Green, which had areas of oxeye daisies (*leucanthemum vulgare*) growing, and also has a pedestrian exit onto Portrane Road which makes it easy for residents to access public transport. Here there were quite a number of trees which had been planted in recent years. Check the ties and loosen them as necessary and then remove them and the stakes when they are no longer needed. We're suggesting that a 60cm radius of grass is allowed to grow around the trees in the Village Green. This will give a neat appearance to this green space and will formalise the grass cutting regime. The area is very open and truthfully is lacking in trees. We strongly recommend trees be planted all around the perimeter in addition to a few coppices randomly positioned in this large space. The pocket park is a work in progress – so far it is good.

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

Open parkland, mature gardens, hedgerows, wonderful mature trees, and stone structures and walls are habitats for your birds, insects and small mammals. In addition you have the wide open sea and long stretches of sand dunes. We see that you are part of an SPA and SAC and are in regular contact with FCC in relation to this. Your volunteers are involved in monitoring for the Little Tern project for the Fingal BirdWatch Ireland branch. It's good that you have nature corridors as these are used by a wide variety of wildlife, including insects, birds, mammals and amphibians to travel safely, feed and 'find mates across fragmented landscapes'. Now that you are aware of the richness of your flora and fauna you need to inform the public. While we are not in favour of signage (it clutters the landscape and streetscape) it can be undertaken in a controlled manner. Carefully select locations and designs for your signs which will not interfere with what you are trying to protect – your environment. There are ideas for activities and projects for you to undertake which are on the Biodiversity Ireland website and also on the Tidy Towns website. We noted on your Facebook Page that hedges were cut in June – remember that the hedge cutting season is from September 1st until February 28th - See Section 40 of the Wildlife Act and only cut when is permissible to do so.

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

When this category was introduced some years ago communities were confused. Now we all know that it is just 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. We saw the contactless bottle refilling station and have no doubt that it is well used by the community and visitors to the beach. Do you know what your take away and public house do with their coffee grinds? Acid-loving plants like blueberries, hydrangeas and azaleas do well if a light sprinkling is raked into the topsoil. Earthworms also love coffee grounds which makes them excellent for compost bins. Ask that they are made available to your local gardeners. You might have to supply them with compostable bags but it would be worth it. We love that you are now using stone or timber surrounds for your flowerbeds. Truthfully, in your area, these are much more suitable. Like many communities you now have leaf mould compost cages and are actively collecting leaves for use in your planting beds. The three new public eco-friendly toilets were noted at Tower Bay Beach.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We encourage Tidy Towns groups to take part in the An Taisce Annual National Spring Clean – we assume that you register for this? We admire it when groups take part in nation-wide or LA's Clean-Up events as it focuses the mind of the general public of the high amount of litter/fly tipping/ dumping that occurs nationally. When you are seen in your Portrane Tidy Towns high vis jackets you make an impression on the public. The village was virtually litter free so well done to your volunteers on doing a good job. It would be good to see the edges of grass trimmed at roadside kerbs (particularly around the village green) as this gives a well-kept appearance to a green space. It's a job that needs to be done in late spring and then again in mid-summer so it's not too arduous. We recommend moving the seats that are positioned on the street (beside the pocket park) as they are positioned directly under wires where birds rest. These seats were extremely dirty when we visited and were not in a state to be used. Some weed growth was noticed along walls and at kerbs. It would be good if businesses and residents would remove weed growth outside their properties as this would ease your workload. They can register with An Taisce's #2minutestreetsclean. The Green Coast Award (it's at Tower Bay Beach) needs to be cleaned and the lettering painted in white – we just about read it. Some of the bring banks were very dirty. They need to be repainted as they are in a very dominant position in your village.

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

There are houses of varying architectural styles in your area many associated with St. Ita's Hospital complex. We particularly admired the ones on Grey Square, Red Square and along Portrane Avenue. Most of these had neatly trimmed hedges as boundaries to their gardens. Compliments to the owner of the house (The Farmhouse 1722)

opposite the cottage on the Portrane Road. We loved the agricultural machinery on display in the garden, and the natural stone walls and gate piers, along with the colourful planters added to the entrance road to the village. There are a number of small housing estate in your area - Langstone Park, Tower View with Seaview Park being the largest. Some new trees have been planted in these areas. Additional trees are needed to enhance the spaces even more. Seats should be also be provided, so that those who are supervising their children at play or those who would like a rest while out walking, can avail of them. Some gardens had great displays of colourful flowers but it would be good if more had pollinator-friendly flowers. We recommend that you make a list of perennial pollinator-friendly flowers and shrubs and put this on your Facebook so that the residents can select these which will help your biodiversity efforts. The dragon gate at Tower Bay Beach with the striped circular pillars must be loved by every child who passes – compliments to the owner for bringing joy.

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

We entered from Donabate and loved the entrance which is tree lined on both sides of the road with grass margins neatly trimmed, giving good visibility to the motorists. It would be good to have the name of the village in Irish as well as in English on your village name stones on the entrance roads. We loved that a pathway extends from Donabate to Portrane giving your community the opportunity to walk safely from one village to the other. The day we visited, there were quite a few people taking the opportunity to make the journey on foot and take the exercise. We spoke to two ladies who told us it's a regular walk for them. The large timber bollards along the edge of the road near Tower Bay Beach were admired, but we question the reason behind the new limestone pavements which stop on the northern side before they reach the private boundary wall and on the southern before the toilet area. This hard landscaping should be continued. Elsewhere these large timber bollard exist at road edges and add to the streetscape. The landscaping, including the boat at Seaview was admired. New footpaths were noted including dipped kerbs.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting Portrane ... in addition to the above we have a few other suggestions for 2027.

- We request that next year you label your projects as New and Maintained. Just numbered them New – N1, N2, N3 etc and Maintained M1, M2, M3 etc You don't need PVRG in the numbering system. These number are also put on your map(s) along with a legend.
- Your maps with the coloured lines crossing are very confusing. We recommend that you have two maps. One showing the overall area of Portrane and show the projects that are along the approach roads and perhaps Seaview Park /Tower View Heights and Tower Bay Beach area on this map. The second map, to be a large scale map of the centre of Portrane, and here the projects in this area are noted. Rather than having the arrows pointing to the location of the projects, just put the number (as described above - N1, N2 or M1, M2) in a circle on the map where the project is located.
- It's probably time that you made a Five Year Plan for Portrane. Don't make it too onerous – just projects/activities that you and the community want to see for Portrane. Add collaborators as many of the projects will require you to have help e.g. FCC, An Taisce, Heritage Council etc. All Future Projects/Actions are then your Five Year Plan and are not in the application form. Add the name of the Tidy Towns committee member who will lead/progress each project so that the work load is evenly distributed.

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 your village (town).