

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Raheny - Ráth Eanaigh** Ref: **176**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **403**
Category: **E** Date(s): **14/07/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	54	55
Streetscape & Public Places	80	51	53
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	52	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	48	51
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	30	32
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	41	42
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	600	388	403

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." Thank you very much for your entry into this year's competition and for including your 3-5 Year Plan, as well as the beautifully illustrated Welcome to Raheny Village and projects maps, as well as your child protection policy and constitution. The structure of your application was also appreciated with the map showing where to find the projects that you are working on as well as indicating if these are new projects or maintaining current ones. You have a strong support base with approximately 50 volunteers including children as well as additional help through the 'Adopt-a-Patch' programme as well as assistance from local businesses, as well as a wide and diverse range of community, voluntary and sports groups etc. There appears to be very strong community spirit with Raheny Tidy Village Group/RTVG being involved in some fantastic events such as the local St. Patrick's Day Parade and the float with sunflowers and bees to create awareness about your commitment to biodiversity looked fantastic. Communications are strong utilising a wide range to spread the message including social media, your website, newsletters, the Raheny Community Notice Board (which was full of posters showing your work, advertising events as well as a lovely welcome letter encouraging all to help with your work) as well as Face to Face. It is great to see such strong youth involvement with partnership with local schools, creches which includes visits to the Community Garden and Pond, and great to see a robust child protection policy.

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

Although technically a town given its population, the fact that you are called Raheny Tidy Village Group is testament to the strong sense of community, pride of place, and 'village feel' that you enjoy. There are many fine historical and notable buildings to be seen including the distinctive St. Assam's Church and Crosses, the Mint Cottage, the All-Saint's Church as well as the beautiful Crescent Cottages. And it is fantastic to read that there are events such as the Heritage Graveyard Tour and Talk taking place to help foster a greater understanding of your heritage

I really enjoyed seeing the colourful murals and painted electric boxes as I walked around your village, with the cute Raheny Rocks one to the beautifully illustrated bee one celebrating your 2023 All Ireland Pollinator Plan win.

there is some very useful and attractive information signage in the village showing the various points of interest and heritage. The Springdale Road Mural was also admired, again credit to you for highlighting the importance of maintaining habitats to support your local wildlife with the beautiful illustrations of the fox and

It is a shame that there is a derelict building on the main street, but you are doing good work on maintaining the hoarding to minimise the negative impact that this may have on the streetscape. This is in addition to the general

upkeep of the area with keeping street furniture, benches, signage, utility boxes etc. all clean and in good condition.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The overall appearance and maintenance of your many planters, floral displays, flowerbeds, trees, green areas etc. is excellent. The work that you are doing to raise awareness of the need for biodiversity through your planting and Biodiversity Corridor with signage to create awareness is commendable, with a lot of work being put into using sustainable perennial planting and shrubs rather than annual bedding plants, and great work in relation to the 'Woodland' area with its bug hotels and bird feeders.

The landscaping around the grounds of the Church of Our Lady, Mother of Divine Grace was beautiful, especially with the emphasis on including pollinator friendly planting. The newly refreshed beds around St. Assam's with the very attractive black and white signage were admired.

Good work on the planting along the Santry River, and the colourful mosaic was spotted along with some good information signage about the importance of the river and habitats here to support biodiversity along with the various flora and fauna that can be found here, and the QR code is a good idea for people who want more information.

The Seamus Griffith Rose Garden is a pleasure to behold, it was a riot of colour on the day that I visited, and such a wonderful way to remember and honour someone. Similarly, the Con's Corner area was admired, including the newly installed plaque to honour one of your founding members.

I also spotted some very nice landscaping outside the DNG Office at Watermill Road. The Squirrels sculpture around here is a very charming addition to the area, and I also spotted the beautiful fox one as well near SuperValu. I also really liked some of your creative displays such as the Ladybird Bicycle and the Wee Chuckles Boat.

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

Despite being in a predominantly urban area, there is a lot happening in this category. Congratulations on developing your Biodiversity Action Plan last year, and for your All-Ireland Pollinator Plan win in 2024. One of the lead actions to come from this was the development of a Biodiversity Corridor throughout Raheny which help maintain or create an ecological connectivity between habitats. I saw the various signs advertising the corridor, and it is a really good idea to have the QR codes to provide detailed information for those who want to gain more insight. Your biodiversity/Pollinators at work signs also help advertise the invaluable work that our bee and butterfly population do for us and the importance to provide them with sustenance, along with the No Mow May signs to encourage the growth of 'wild' flowers. Likewise, the new pond in the Community Garden is a great teaching tool to illustrate the importance of ponds for providing habitats and water sources and well done on organising a workshop on this with a local expert. A great amount of work being done on protecting the water quality of the area through testing water using guidelines developed by the Local Authority Water Programme, LAWPRO, as well as trojan work cleaning up the Santry River, and fantastic work being done at North Bull Island with upskilling to help protect the ecosystem here.

It also appears that you are bats about Bats! With Bat monitors, Bat walks as well as a workshop on what to plant in your garden to help provide for these creatures as well as lobbying local businesses to provide lighting that is suitable for these nocturnal creatures.

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

Sustainability and the principles of the Circular Economy are something that you take very seriously, with a lot of work being carried out in this area.

It is great to read that with the assistance of the Dublin City Council Community Climate Action Fund you have been able to distribute 50 free water butts to homes in the area to use for watering their gardens and preserving water in addition to the Community Garden rainwater harvesting system, a simple but very effective way to conserve our valuable water supply.

You are also doing great work in raising awareness of the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through social media, your #sustainbleraheny tag as well as a talk by LAWPRO.

Food security has become an important topic in recent times, and the work that you are doing encourages people to consider growing some of their own food which helps save money, encourage biodiversity as well as reduce air miles through your community garden, and the contemplation area here is also a lovely idea to create a space for everyone to enjoy and feel a part of.

Some of the practical initiatives that you are undertaking include bulb, plant and seed swops, distribute sunflower seeds for your annual sunflower competition as well have clothes swops and upcycling workshops, and create compost out of collected leaves. Sustainable transport is also being championed with your handy electric bike with trailer to help lighten your load as well as hosting a Bike Week, providing a bike rack to encourage cycling as well as events such as Bike Week, and investigating the possibility of more EV charging points. In addition to all that you are already doing have you looked at increased energy efficiency in domestic houses? There is a lot of useful information on the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and what grants are available.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Excellent work being done in this category, Raheny was practically litter free on the day that I visited despite its size and how busy it was. The Recycling bank area was very clean and well maintained. The 'Adopt a Patch' policy, such as the #2minutesstreetclean and #2minutesbeachclean initiatives of having volunteers focus on specific areas is paying off. This is a great way of encouraging involvement for those with limited time capacity and shows that many hands do indeed make light work. It is interesting to read the statistics of how much litter that you managed to collect with nearly 700 bags of rubbish and 7 blue boxes of vapes being counted. You are also trying to reduce the amount of waste and litter in the first place through various campaigns such as your Keep Raheny Clean and Green 'Bin the Butt' project and the adverse impact discarded cigarette butts have not just on the appearance of the environment but also on animals, water quality and ecosystems is admirable. Well done on all the work that you are doing in relation to weed control and avoiding the use of chemical herbicides and acquiring the Weedex machine to help you with your work and using collected leaves for compost for use in your planters and other flower displays. Good work also on your involvement in initiatives such as the An Taisce National Spring Clean and the work on Santry River as well as the Clean Coasts Big Beach Clean and the Dublin Community Clean-Up Day, great work on all fronts by your volunteers.

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

The various residential estates and houses seen were well maintained, many with very attractive gardens, green areas and good quality signage, it is obvious that there is a very strong community spirit and sense of pride amongst residents, and that there is strong partnership between these and Raheny Tidy Village Group.

The estates visited included Manor House View, Watermill Road, the Meadows, Ashcroft, Rathmore Park, and of course the gorgeous row of houses at the Crescent. Participation in the Dublin City Council Neighbourhood and City Awards is a fun way of encouraging friendly rivalry and for residents to strive to present their properties to their best advantage. There appears to be a great appetite amongst the community to constantly improve their environment, with a wide range of projects such as new planting, the mini library at Maywood, new planting, bug hotels etc. The work being done at Springdale Road is excellent, including the lovely mural, litter picking, planting, as well as the Spring bulbs that have been planted along the hospital wall.

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

There is a lot of hard work being carried out by RTVG and volunteers, and all approaches appeared clean, tidy and well maintained, no mean feat in an area the size of Raheny, well done. The classic black Welcome to Raheny signs were all very clean, easy to read and well-integrated into the surrounding landscape and good job on the new wooden barricades to prevent car parking.

The new SuperValu Tidy Towns winner signs at the various approaches were admired, and a really good idea to remove the years to improve their longevity (and hopefully futureproof for further wins!).

The mural at the Lough Derg Laneway was lovely and it is great to see that you are making a concerted effort in relation to laneways and areas that are used regularly by those who live in an area but can often be overlooked. I was delighted to read that since the introduction of this mural that there has been a reduction in litter and graffiti, which aligns with the 'broken window' theory that when an area is neglected it invites more neglect, but with a bit of TLC it attracts positive results. Although some small amounts of graffiti was noticed this was not a major issue, and has been countered by some of the beautiful murals and art works to be seen on the electrical boxes etc.

The Tree of Life Sculpture was admired as were the lovely coastal themed flower beds in keeping with your proximity to the North Bull Island.

Concluding Remarks:

Although I have passed through Raheny previously, this was my first time spending a significant amount of time here, and am very impressed with all the great work that you are doing, and wish you the best of luck with all your future endeavours.