

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathcoole - Ráth Cúil** Ref: **1099**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **295**
Category: **E** Date(s): **06/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	37	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	34
TOTAL MARK	600	279	295

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.

It is nice to see Rathcoole back competing in the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition after taking a short break in 2023. You have a strong committee of eleven, with six additional volunteers. It is good to see that you also engage with volunteers from the local refugee centres and they are involved with the wider community. You communicate via the Rathcoole Community Facebook Page may we suggest you also develop your own Facebook page more with news items and link them to the Community page. The Community Newsletter is a good way to promote your cause to people who do not use Social Media. You also work well with schools also involving them with the Woodland and Freshwater Groups, which is of great interest to young people. Thank you for your map which is clear concise and easy to follow.

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

Rathcoole Main Street presents the walker with a nice mixture of public spaces and places all very well presented. The Church of Ireland where the old graveyard is receiving continuing attention is an important feature in the personal history of any town, particularly nowadays where there is a good interest in old family history, this is the history record of past cherished ones written in stone. The Church of the Holy Family is very well kept with some lovely scented roses perfuming the air like incense on the evening of visiting. Lovely landscaping here with the bright red water pump and the boiling pot, both a lovely memory of bygone days. The Park is a wonderful amenity and was being well used by people of all ages enjoying the amenity. The Court of Petty Sessions is now playing different dramas being used as theatre, its architecture judges its presence on the street.

The Scouts den is a lovely building that's full of fun.

On the gastro scene The Rathcoole Inn with its old thatch roof is an interesting hostelry with a nice atmosphere both inside and out. Purcell's Pub is well presented, it would be nice if the flower beds were kept in line with the rest of the beds in the village. Banner House hosts well as welcoming B&B a necessity that great to see for the weary traveller.

The shopping centre is well presented all windows bright and clear free of clutter. Hair to Dye For is a witty name sign. Dublin Stove and Fire is a very attractive shop even when closed.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The park at the top of the town is a great amenity well kept with a mixture of parkland features suitable for every user.

The river flowing through it is well protected with the biodiversity wild plant boundary.

The flower bed at Fitzmaurice Road, of historical significance which is being refurbished should look well in time for the casement celebrations, every good luck and success with this venture.

There is a very nice planting scheme throughout the town, all with a mixture of colourful pollinator and bedding plants. The insertion of plastic buckets disguised in the timber frames, used as plant pots is a novel idea for keeping plants fresh and watered. All the plants seen in the arrangements were colourful well cared for and some were nicely scented. The planting at the Church of the Holy Family is very pleasant, colourful and sweetly perfumed with good quality flowering roses. The green beside the Poitin Still is very colourful and well maintained.

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

This is a category in which you have put a lot of work into in collaboration with other groups. It ties in nicely with your landscaping policy and your sustainability category. Sampling of the river water passing through the town is an interesting project. Communicating this information into a readable format for your community would be a useful exercise, documenting both the positive and negative aspects of the findings. Giving this information to your householders in the community and informing them of measures they may take in their own houses and gardens to minimise water pollution that maybe discharged into the surface water drains and on into streams. The record data of protected and invasive flora and fauna is interesting. Again, informing your community about the invasive plants such as the three-corner garlic would be a good idea as some innocent householders are putting invaders into their gardens. Your efforts on the beechwood The Beech Wood is admirable and your focus on the tree preservation order. The rewilding project is an interesting and exciting project to work on. The hay meadow signs at Rathcoole park are duly noted and provide interesting information to the site. Your communication via newsletter and articles to the community is informative as people like to know and watch for nature in their locality.

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

This category works well with your efforts in the nature and biodiversity category, recycling compost for the sensory garden is a good use of recycling and reusing this precious commodity. Harvesting plants from seed and growing them on is a nice project where social community horticulture can be involved getting people to grow and share their plants for the benefit of the town. Your sponsorship of sustainability awareness competition with the Holy Family National School in Rathcoole, is a great way of getting the upcoming population interested and involved in the town environment.

In this category you may like to provide more information and lobby for sustainable transport, bike stands and EV charging points, bus shelters to protect commuters on wet weather days. Also communicating information such as meetings etc, on sustainable energy projects for residents in the town

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter is not evident in the streets and estates in Rathcoole, thanks to your efforts here but also in your litter picking and cleaning of the river. The town paths are weed free which is very important for people with mobility and sight issues as path weeds can easily become a trip hazard. In doing this weeding exercise not only are you weeding and cleaning the street but performing a valuable public service for the community. The Rathcoole Community Centre providing refreshments on the day is great community spirit in action and adds a good social element to the event. The shopping areas where litter often is discarded or accumulates were very litter free. No evidence of graffiti was observed during the visit.

Some of the signage around the Park relating to litter and dog fouling is poor and needs replacing

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

There is interesting and varied architecture in the town with some unique town houses and shops with living accommodation which is good for the social fabric of the street. Forest Hill is a nice estate with a nicely planted stone entrance that is easy to see and read. Green verges and footpath access is well maintained. Beechwood Lawns is a lovely estate with nice broad roads and paths that is easy to access. There are some noticeable nature strip damage visible from badly parked cars. The entrance here needs attention with an Elder bush badly blocking the footpath which is a pedestrian hazard. While one is respectful of biodiversity and not cutting plants out of season, public safety is paramount where plants may block paths or cause visibility issues. In such cases a little intervention may be required.

The houses here are well kept and maintained to a good quality with some very interesting front gardens.

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

Approach roads to and from the town are well maintained with clear visible signage indicating Rathcoole village and the speed limits. Road surfaces are good and road markings are clearly defined, parking and no parking areas clearly indicated.

Concluding Remarks:

Adjudicating Rathcoole is a pleasant experience, you have a lovely town with a diverse and vibrant street presence that is interesting to view. Your efforts in keeping the town to the clean and tidy standard it is, is very reassuring. Your efforts in nature and biodiversity and its awareness are admirable. Good luck with your endeavours and keep up your good work.

