

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Skerries - Na Sceirí** Ref: **178**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **410**
Category: **F** Date(s): **22/06/2026**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	60	62
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	55
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	52	54
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	32	34
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	42
TOTAL MARK	600	395	410

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. Skerries is welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition for 2026. Thank you for participating in the competition and submitting your excellent application form. As always it is a pleasure to visit and adjudicate your beautiful town and catch up with all the different projects undertaken by your committee and volunteers. The committee of twelve and a large number of volunteers run weekly for nine months of the year in maintaining existing projects and developing new projects. You are fortunate to have residents who have specific skills, such as horticulture who are willing to help in any way to make the town more attractive to those visiting and living in the area. The adoption scheme is working well and helps to encourage more volunteers to come along and help. The various groups which includes businesses, youth groups and agencies all work closely together in conjunction with Fingal County Council, to ensure Skerries has a clear voice in planning and policy decisions. Networking with other Tidy Towns groups is ongoing, sharing ideas on what works well for the area. Communication to the wider community is through social media, newsletters/paper and of course ongoing interaction with the community members. The town hosts a number of festivals and events for the community which attracts many participants visiting the town. This takes a good deal of planning and organising but the results are rewarding. Skerries has been involved in the competition for sixty-seven years which is a great achievement. The town has grown over the years but thankfully so too has the community to develop new projects that embrace the present day needs of the community, while maintaining the natural surroundings.

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

As you state in your application the town has grown over the years from a fishing village to a busy commuter town. This growth has included new buildings, which is ongoing to meet the needs of a growing community. The old town has carefully been maintained which includes a number of thatched dwellings, looking bright and colourful, with restoration work completed to buildings to ensure this continues. Such work is noted at The Carnegie Library which has been refurbished and extended. This has provided a superb space at Floraville Park for relaxation in the excellent seating to enjoy the surroundings. This space is also home to many commemorative plaques; the latest addition commemorates Mary McGee. The display of medals awarded to the Tidy Towns was also admired. The adjoining Church is a well maintained building. The Mill area is also being developed to meet the needs of the community while maintaining the community space that exists in the garden and walking areas. Buildings have been painted such as Bobs which help to brighten up the streetscape. The monument which is a focal point of the town is brightened with good planters, with painting planned for the railings. The Harbour/Strand is an important recreational space for the community with superb seating and planting added, while maintaining the natural appearance of the surroundings. The Community Centre and pitches are an excellent amenity for the community

for recreation and are well maintained. The road boundary of railings was also admired, perhaps a reduction in the number of signs along these railings at the entrance would help improve the overall appearance more. Other buildings noted were the HSE building at Thomas Hand street. The nameplate here is one of the many name plate signs noted throughout the town. This building was brightly painted and enhanced more with window boxes. SuperValu building was also bright and colourful with an abundance of planters. The Railway Station an important facility for the community was also admired with the walkway to the playing pitch and apple orchard noted.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The towns natural surroundings have been enhanced greatly by the well maintained areas of ground and container planting noted at various locations. It is good to see the planting of native hedges and trees which includes fruit trees is included throughout the town. Three tier planters, window boxes and a planted boat at the Moorings were some of the landscaping noted, bringing great colour to their surroundings. Ground planting of bee friendly plants were also noted and admired. Many businesses were also enhanced by planters, notably SuperValu, Blue Bar Café and Joe May to name but a few. The sensory garden at Floraville Park was also admired and enjoyed.

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

Skerries are working closely with ecologists to ensure the proper management and protection of biodiversity in the town and surroundings. Many areas of grass are left unmown to ensure spring flowers can blossom. Planting of bee loving plants are noted throughout the planting along the approach roads and at communal areas throughout the town. Wildflower meadows such as at Barmageeragh Road, Railway area and at the Mill were greatly admired. Wildlife information boards are visible at appropriate locations and wildlife identification resources are also shared through social media. Hosting of walks and talks to appreciate local species and habitats is important so that the community are aware of the natural habitats that are in their midst. Fingal Birdwatch runs walks and conservation projects on different species. Skerries ensures this happens with events and walks educating the community on biodiversity. Well done on your award for winning the greenest town competition.

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

Groups are encouraged to make their areas more sustainable by their activities. The main key themes where great savings can be made are water, transport, waste, energy and climate. Skerries are doing numerous projects in these areas. More cycle and walking lanes are being made available. The use of public transport through the introduction of more routes to reduce on cars and therefore reduce on emissions is also encouraged. More public buildings and homes are being fitted with solar panels, with grants being made available to communities for this purpose. Recycling and reusing has increased with a reduction in waste going to landfill sites. All these projects are helping to make the area more sustainable and reducing environmental impact. Thank you for submitting information on your various projects as otherwise the adjudicator would not know the amount of work undertaken in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Skerries have a good plan in place around the control and hopefully eradication of litter. The schools are involved as part of the Green School Initiative and three national schools are involved with Skerries Everyone Against Litter. They were rewarded for their efforts having done the work under supervision. There is good support from all groups in any clean up days organised, either on the streets or the beach, which is encouraging. The adopt a patch is successful in getting more people involved. Painting of water hydrants, seating and bollards all add to the overall tidiness of the area. Very little weed growth was noted along kerbs. Bollards were generally good with a broken one noted at Red Island. Graffiti was noted in a few areas which can be a bother. Electric utility boxes had art work completed on some, which looked bright and colourful, including the remainder of these utility service with this art is encouraged. Skerries is a very busy town and has benefitted from all the work undertaken by its volunteers. Keep up the good work.

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

The houses along the streetscape, approach roads and throughout the residential estates both old and new estates, take great pride in their areas. Entrances are landscaped such as noted at Churchfield and other housing areas with a focus on biodiversity. Hanging baskets and well maintained mown and wild patches were admired. Planting of native hedging and trees including fruit trees was also noted. Play areas for children were also noted in a number of estates and all well maintained. There is ongoing refurbishing of houses and new housing developments taking place, which is commended. The residents are praised for the work they do in maintaining their homes to such a high standard and also helping out generally in the town. Congratulations to the winners in the best presented House/Garden competition that was run.

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

The town was busy on day of adjudication but traffic flowed well and there was good parking. There were improvements in footpaths with many new footpaths noted. Cycling and walking lanes were also noted, all adding to the safety of commuters. The entrances roads to the town have superb landscaping, giving a welcome first impression to those visiting. Do ensure that all entrance roads are defined with an entrance sign. No sign was noted on the Ballygossan Park road. Name plates and directional signage was good. Do ensure that foliage is cut back from all signage. Landscaping along the Balbriggan entrance road was greatly admired.

Concluding Remarks:

Skerries was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You are making great progress in the competition and are working on clearly defined projects across all categories. Keep up the excellent work and you are wished well in the future.