

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	South Georgian Core - An Croí Seoirseach Theas	Ref:	2310
County:	Dublin	Mark:	258
Category:	D	Date(s):	16/07/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	33
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32
TOTAL MARK	600	258

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 Tidy Towns competition, you are most welcome! You have also enclosed a map illustrating the area that you wish to be included in your entry, along with your 3 Year Plan and some lovely photographs of the work that you are carrying out, this is greatly appreciated. Considering that you are newly established, you have a great foundation with 6 people on your committee as well as an additional 20 volunteers. You have already established engagement with a wide range of organisations including statutory bodies as well as voluntary groups and good to see that you have been communicating with the nearby Portobello Tidy Towns Group, a great way to share tips and experiences. Communications appear to be good with a range of social media being employed such as Instagram, WhatsApp, as well as flyers to local businesses and residents. The posters that you have included as part of your call to action to get people to join in your endeavours are very attractive and hopefully will help attract new members to your team. It is also great to read that you have already linked in with your local National School, Scoil Catriona on Baggot Street, with the view to establishing a Junior Tidy Towns team in the near future.

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

The area covered by your entry includes many fine buildings of architectural importance. Buildings and places of note include the old Huguenot Cemetery, the Bank of Ireland building, Government Buildings and the National Gallery.

The ornate traditional lamp standards are beautiful; it is a pleasure to see some of these still remaining in the city centre. Signage is generally of a high quality and well maintained, and good work on managing to get old signage removed. If you have not already considered doing so it can be a good idea to carry out an inventory of street furniture, poles, signage etc. and see if there is anything else that is obsolete and could be removed to reduce visual clutter.

Commercial premises that particularly stood out included James Toner Pub, O'Donoghue's, Doheny & Nesbitt's which had some gorgeous window boxes, Hugo's, and the Finnegan Menton office is very attractive, and it is a pity to see the old Brooks & Co. hardware shop with its beautiful signage closed, it would be lovely if whoever bought it would consider keeping this

Well done to you with the assistance of Dublin City Council to power hose the Lower Leeson Street area to clean this up and remove the chewing gum that had been discarded on the street.

You have some lovely idea to introduce meaningful art into the area with requests to have electrical boxes painted with historically significant images along with a mural at the Baggot Court tunnel. It would also really enhance the visual amenity of the streetscape if you are successful in improving the appearance of the concrete medians around Fitzwilliam St. Upper and Herbert Place Road.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

This category also includes planters, floral displays, window boxes as well as hard and soft landscaping. There are some fantastic floral displays to be seen at many of the commercial premises mentioned in the Streetscape category. It also includes the various parks that you are fortunate to have on your doorstep such as Merrion Square and Fitzwilliam Square, which are lovely spaces to escape from the hustle and bustle and relax for a while. I hadn't been in Merrion Square for quite some time and there were some very interesting sculpture and art installations which I had not noticed previously in addition to the iconic Oscar Wilde sculpture. The park was clean and mostly litter free on the day that I visited. There were some nice trough style planters to be seen on Baggot St, particularly outside the Spar shop, and Hugo's had an excellently executed outdoor seating area. You are engaging with Dublin City Council as well as the Parks and Traffic Department to improve the road medians in certain areas which would certainly add to the visual appearance of these areas as well greening parts of Baggot Street lower, as well as possibly attracting pollinators and increasing biodiversity if planted with the right flowers.

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

Although you were not successful in your bid to plant perennial bulbs and hedging along Lower Baggot Street, there are other things you can do to help introduce more greenery and help promote biodiversity as well as help our pollinators such as bees, butterflies and other insects. As a baseline, you can try to map your habitat, and list all the plants and animals that can be found in the area, and despite being an urban area you may be surprised at the flora and fauna that can exist in such areas. This could perhaps be a project that the local school could be involved in. You can also help raise awareness through holding events such as tree, hedgerow or bat walk, on the environs of the Baggot Street area, perhaps along the canal. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information. You have already started along these lines with your invitation to members to take part in the RTE Dawn Chorus event in Spring. And your idea of the electrical boxes being painted with images of the areas history and environment is a lovely one.

In relation to pollinator friendly planting, there is a wealth of information to be found on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan website to be found at <https://pollinators.ie/>

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

It is obvious that you are committed to the principles of sustainability and the circular economy. You have introduced some very practical ways in which you can reduce waste and as well as raise awareness of the work that you are doing for your local environment. Some of the initiatives that you have had to raise awareness and educate have included engaging with residents' associations as well as the local Baggotonia festival community. You are also trying to reduce paper waste by engaging with the community through word of mouth and are also encouraging collaboration with other like-minded groups such as the Friends of the Grand Canal.

Some other ideas you could investigate in this category would be having 'swop shops' for preloved items such as old sports gear, books, clothes etc. as one man's trash can be another one's treasure! I have seen some lovely little 'free libraries' where people can leave a book, they no longer want and take one they have yet to read. Also, you could engage with local cafes and restaurants about encouraging the use of 'keep cups' or refilling water bottles to avoid the use of single plastic ones which often end up in landfill. Something you can also look at in the future would be energy efficiency, and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) have a wealth of information in relation to energy efficiency as well as the various grants available to both businesses and residential homeowners, on their website at www.seai.ie.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

For such a busy central area, most of the area covered had reasonably good litter control. However, there were a few areas that needed a bit of extra attention, particularly along the Lower Baggot Street area where the seagulls had successfully managed to rip open rubbish bags and as a result there was litter strewn on the street. It would be great if you were able to do something to help resolve this issue with the assistance of Dublin City Council, although you have a few practical suggestions to help with this such as wall hooks and placing bags inside the railings.

It is fantastic to see that you have already participated in the An Taisce National Spring Clean in April and thank you very much for including some great photographs of the turnout by volunteers and the results of all your hard labour. The strategic approach that you are taking by prioritising lanes and areas that can be easily neglected is to be commended.

Great work also on the clean up of the Grand Canal in May. It is also good to see that you are avoiding the use of chemical sprays to eradicate weeds and that this is being done manually with manpower!

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

This part of Dublin boasts many fine Georgian houses which create a highly attractive streetscape, although as you mention, these live cheek by jowl with modern and often less aesthetic office blocks and other commercial premises. Considering that you are just a newly established group you are already being proactive in encouraging residents to help keep the area looking as well as possible through cleaning, litter picking as well as introducing elements that can enhance the beauty of their homes through planters, window boxes, as well as playing up the unique architectural features etc. you have already been successful in tackling the chewing gum issue at Lower Leeson

Street

Dublin City Council are also to be thanked for their offer of a donation of plants, and you hope to use these to engage local businesses to also get involved, which would be fantastic.

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

In general, the various approach roads, streets and lanes to be seen in the area are well maintained and clean (with some exceptions due mostly to seagulls as mentioned previously, as well as some areas which have attracted graffiti).

You have some good idea to improve signage at significant entry points of the core Georgian area that will reflect its history and heritage. At some stage in the future, you may consider establishing a heritage trail with all the main points of interest on a single information sign, perhaps with QR codes with links to more detailed information if someone wants to delve a bit deeper. You are also engaging with Dublin City Council in relation to markings for cyclists as well as seeking to improve biodiversity and traffic pollution

Concluding Remarks:

We are delighted to have your inaugural entry into the Tidy Towns competition, and it was a pleasure to spend some time around the area and seeing all that you have already accomplished since you began. You are doing great work so far, keep it up and we hope to see you again next year.