

Tidy Towns Competition 2026

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Temple Bar - Barra an Teampaill	Ref:	179
County:	Dublin	Mark:	350
Category:	D	Date(s):	30/06/2026

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2025	Mark Awarded 2026
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	80	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	80	24	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	600	336	350

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 as well as including a map and some colourful photographs of the area and the work that you are doing. You engage with a wide variety of different organisations and bodies, both statutory and voluntary, including partnership with The Ark, Dublin City Council, and others for the very successful TrafFest festival which has traditional music in a wide range of venues including St. Patrick's Cathedral. There is very strong support from local businesses including financial support towards your community improvement programme. You advocate for the area to improve the environment, streetscape and sustainability of this area for all who work, play or live here.

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

Temple Bar has a fantastic mix of buildings that create a unique sense of character. These include the historic Sunlight Chambers building on Parliament Street, the iconic Olympia Theatre with its striking awning, to the modern Irish Rock N' Roll Museum with its colourful tribute to Irish musical legends. The Merchant's Arch Bar is a beautiful building and was beautifully presented and adorned with a swathe of flowers on the railings as well as in window boxes. Fitzsimons also looked very attractive with a striking red and cream colourway with contrasting hanging baskets. There are also some older more traditional looking pubs such as the Foggy Dew, The Oak, and The Quays with its beautiful green tiles that also give a sense of history and heritage. The newly redeveloped Central Plaza area also creates a new area for people to relax and spend some time away from the hustle and bustle and also serve as a hub for a wide variety of social and cultural events. The various street art initiatives are fantastic and create and encourage the visitor to explore all the nooks and crannies of Temple Bar, and not just the main thoroughfares. The painted electric boxes that I saw as I walked around were very eye catching, and I particularly liked the quirky 'The South Site' seagull. The cobblestones are a feature very much associated with the history and charm of Temple Bar and were in good condition, and street furniture in general is in excellent condition and well maintained, but I noticed some of the blue street signs were quite faded and could be replaced.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Given the limited green space within Temple Bar the majority of landscaping and greenery comes from the many planters, window boxes, hanging baskets and trees. The striking large planters on parliament Street with

incorporated seating are fantastic, as well as providing greenery and a touch of nature they serve to give a sense of place and emphasise its new pedestrianised status. There are many splendid floral displays and hanging baskets to be seen all through Temple Bar, with many of the commercial premises having spectacular bursts of colour, such as the Merchant's Arch, The Temple Bar pub, Bad Bobs, and the Hostel and Whiskey Reserve, and there were some really nice window boxes at Lundy Foots. Handel's garden is also a bit of a hidden gem, and the trees to be seen in the area, especially on Parliament Street and Essex Street, and Temple Bar Square help greatly to soften the hard landscaping and buildings and provide 'lungs' for the area.

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

Although it is right in the heart of the city centre, Temple Bar has more green space and trees than you would initially assume. Some of these sanctuaries include the Rooftop Garden at The Ark, the urban garden at the Crampton Buildings, as well as several other green areas on rooftops, courtyards etc. in private residential areas, as well as Handel's Garden at Fishamble Street. As it is difficult for an adjudicator to access these areas, you are to be commended for the Biodiversity Study you carried out which identified many species such as Mountain Ash and native Birch being included in these schemes which help provide habitats for birds, butterflies, and other creatures. Although I would be very familiar with the Temple Bar area, I hadn't realised that there are quite a number of trees for such an urban area. With the mature ones on Parliament Street being particularly attractive, and really complement the newly pedestrianised street, giving an additional canopy of cover to help create a little oasis in the city. To make sure that you and others are doing all you can for our important pollinators there is great information to be found on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan website at <https://pollinators.ie/>

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

You have a wide range of projects and initiatives in this category showing your commitment to sustainability as well as your understanding of the benefits of the circular economy.

There are many second hand and vintage shops in Temple Bar. A large percentage of textiles end up in landfill, many of them shedding microplastics and causing severe environmental damage, so buying preloved clothes is a way of finding unique gems as well as reducing waste. Other markets such as The Book Market, and The Food Market also help with the circular economy as well as reducing air miles from imported food. Well done on the sustainable travel plan to encourage visitors to the many social and cultural events that take place to be more conscious with their transportation, and from the research you have done with attendees at TradFest it appears to be working. The electric cleaning trucks are also another example of reducing your energy consumption in a very practical manner, as are the Green Power Generators.

Given the volume of locals and visitors alike that either travel through or to Temple Bar, the Water Refill station is a simple but often neglected tool to reduce a vast amount of waste from single use plastic bottles, and it would be very interesting if there was a way to estimate how many bottles would otherwise have been used. The policy by Dublin City Council in banning plastic refuse sacks on certain streets has certainly had a very positive effect on the visual amenity of the area, however, we understand the challenges that this brings, so well done on the installation of the waste compactor to combat this. Although the population of permanent residents in the area is quite small it would be worth looking at what energy efficiency measures could be introduced, and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland have a wealth of information in relation to energy efficiency as well as the various grants available to both businesses and residential homeowners, to be found on their website at www.seai.ie.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It was a very busy day when I visited Temple Bar with plenty of tourists, locals and workers enjoying the unusually sunny weather we have had this summer. However, I was very pleasantly surprised to find practically no litter in the area despite the hustle and bustle, excellent work! Of course this does not happen without a lot of effort, with a very strategic plan including cleaning 7 days a week, power washing, sweeping, deep cleaning, weeding and window cleaning. Other issues you have highlighted include graffiti which you remove, if possible, as well as the problem of sticker and fly posters though unfortunately on the lane just past the Olympia Theatre there was quite a bit of graffiti and a pole that was covered in stickers, it is an ongoing challenge. Some of the bins I saw also had the stickers from vapes which is unfortunately seen in many areas throughout the country. Street furniture looked clean and well maintained, and the lovely cobbled paths were well cared for and there didn't seem to be a major issue with chewing gum on these or the other footpaths.

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

Temple Bar is not the most traditional of residential areas, given that this is a highly touristic neighbourhood with several hotels, guest houses and Airbnbs, in addition to the more permanent residents with the majority living in apartment buildings. The presentation of residential units was generally very high. The Granary Building is very striking and interesting to read that the painting of this reduced the incidence of graffiti here. The Crompton building has a very interesting history, from one of the first purpose-built apartment complexes in Dublin to its redevelopment to adhere to building codes to its current iteration including its urban garden, an unexpected feature in the heart of the city centre. We also noted the resurfacing of Crampton Court which helps enhance this area. Fishamble Street is an attractive curved street with several hotels and a rich history, having served as a fish market in medieval times as well as its fame as the birthplace of Handel's Messiah.

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

There are many lanes in the Temple Bar area, with Love Lane perhaps being the most well-known, with its gorgeous, hand-crafted tiles. This is a hugely popular spot for tourists (and locals) to pose for photos, and as you

mention, an exemplar of how a former (relatively dingy) alleyway can become a piece of art, and that a bit of creativity and care can have a hugely transformative impact. You are doing good work on the maintenance of the various lanes and the various art works and murals to be seen as you ramble around Temple Bar as part of the 'Love the Lanes' project are terrific. In particular, the Minaw Collective is a vibrant colourful addition to the streetscape. You have also ensured that no area is left untouched with the fantastic 'Flow' and Sail installations.

Concluding Remarks:

Although I thought I was very familiar with Temple Bar, I really enjoyed exploring all the nooks and crannies and making some new discoveries along the way. I was very impressed with how litter free it was on a very sunny busy day, and the new pedestrianised area is fantastic, well done and best of luck with all your future projects.