

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dundalk - Dún Dealgan** Ref: **494**
County: **Louth** Mark: **389**
Category: **H** Date(s): **16/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	60	62
Streetscape & Public Places	80	53	55
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	40	42
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	29	32
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	42
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	45
TOTAL MARK	550	371	389

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór Dundalk Tidy Towns. Your 2025 submission showcases remarkable energy and innovation, particularly evident in your newly launched 5-year plan and comprehensive website at www.dundalktidytowns.ie. I could not find the Plan on the website though, perhaps I overlooked it. A prominent position on the Homepage would be a good idea. I was particularly impressed by the breadth of your community engagement and the clear strategic thinking evident in your "town in progress" approach. The dedication of your volunteer base of 35 people, led by a committed committee of 10, continues to drive meaningful change across this large urban centre. Your approach to community inclusivity remains exemplary. To say the list of agencies and organisations you engage with is impressive would be the understatement of the century! The ongoing work to establish Dundalk as an inclusive town continues to bear fruit, with your international volunteers from Malaysia, Brazil, Germany and America creating a wonderful example of how Tidy Towns can bring communities together. Your outreach to the Irish Wheelchair Association and St John of Gods demonstrates thoughtful consideration of others in your community. I was delighted to read about your recognition through both the Northeast Business Awards and the Civic Award from Louth County Council - well deserved acknowledgements of your volunteers' dedication. Your social media presence continues to grow impressively, with over 1,000 Instagram followers and 4,000 on Facebook using the hashtags #LoveWhereYouLive and #LiveLitterFree. Your primary schools newsletter, now in its fourth edition, provides an excellent resource for environmental education. The establishment of your new website, thanks to help from DKIT students, demonstrates your excellent collaboration skills. Excellent clear submission, showing alignment to the SDGs and a map that made my visit both enjoyable and easy to navigate. Well done.

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

The transformation of Dundalk's town centre continues at an impressive pace and you are blessed to have such wonderful architectural heritage, especially around the magnificent Market Square area with beautiful art and even a bench that charges a phone. Your partnership with Dundalk Town BIDS on the Facades Project is delivering remarkable visual impact - the commitment to painting at least 15 buildings in 2025 shows ambitious planning. SEEK Urban Arts Festival has become a genuine highlight, and your sponsorship of this event demonstrates excellent cultural investment. The 2025 festival's focus on historic figures and industrial heritage perfectly complements your heritage banners programme. I particularly liked the St. Brigid mural. The parklets project was very impressive, with excellent outdoor dining spaces. The commitment from Louth County Council to include Ramparts works in their capital projects represents excellent advocacy skills on your part. The major regeneration projects - St Nicholas Quarter and Long Walk Quarter redevelopment - will significantly enhance the town's public

realm. Your committee's engagement with these consultation processes ensures community voice is represented. I really enjoyed learning about the history and heritage of the town from your signage peppered throughout the town. The local shops are obviously showing great support. The Lisdoon Pub, McEvoy's Shop, Hollands Hardware all looked great, an industrious staff member from Matthews Pharmacy was outside the shop sweeping when I passed and the entrance to Louth Local Development was truly impressive. Your Museum is an absolute treasure trove of history and heritage and the staff could not have been more helpful. The outdoor touch screen portal by the library is a great initiative but was not working on the day I visited. The Brigid of Faughart Festival looked absolutely spectacular. Finally your new low energy LED Christmas lights and Frostival festival represent ongoing efforts to create a vibrant, family-friendly town centre experience.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your two Green Flag parks continue to set excellent standards and the inclusion of both St Helena's Park and Ice House Hill Park in the Pollinator Plan represents how you can thoughtfully integrate biodiversity into your work. The completion of playground and bandstand restoration at St Helena's Park provides wonderful family amenities. I also loved the connectivity here with the town and river walk. Some new trees here need to be staked and planting around the base of the interpretive sign would be nice to see. Some of the planters are also cracked and need replacing. Clarke's Forest Park remains a valuable community asset and the recent refurbishment of Clarke's Memorial Garden, funded by Louth County Council, demonstrates excellent partnership working and creates a fitting commemoration for the Free State. Your new pollinator beds on Ecco Road, showcase how we can provide innovative habitat creation, combining wildflower mixes with perennials and grasses. The business sponsorship programme resulting in over 200,000 bulbs planted since 2020 represents extraordinary community mobilisation. Your sponsorship of the Marshes Avenue roundabout shows that you are leading by example. The pocket forest creation between edible beds at the Fairy Garden demonstrates how versatile these spaces can be and by partnering with the Irish Wheelchair Association you demonstrated your commitment to being inclusive. I really enjoyed my visit here, especially the fairy throne and items which have been painted and/or repurposed. Your commitment to being herbicide free is commendable. During my visit some of your pole reservoir planters were very early into their growing season so I didn't see their impact. In some areas the planters were packed quite densely; is this necessary?

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

This category continues to represent some of your finest work. The Pumping Station Fairy Garden's pollinator patch is a lovely touch. The bug hotels and bee identification signs provide excellent educational value for visiting families and children. Your school supply programme, providing recycling bins, compost bins, water butts and tools to five local schools, creates lasting legacy but is probably more suited to the next category where I included the points. The installation of 10 bat boxes in St Helena's Park, targeting Nathusius pipistrelles and Leisler's bats, shows a sophisticated species-specific conservation knowledge, excellent work. The roundabout sponsorship programme, across 1000m² demonstrates a remarkable scale of biodiversity enhancement. Your Louth in Bloom participation and the planned Dundalk Inclusive Garden project at Creative Spark are all wonderful. Your extensive biodiversity events programme throughout 2024/25 - from seed saving workshops to bat walks leading to the formation of Louth Bat Group - creates genuine community engagement with nature. So many other projects here to discuss - please keep up the amazing work. In a Biodiversity Crisis, DTT is a beacon of hope!

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

Your partnership with schools and sports clubs on reusable water bottles, sourced from companies that plant trees with every order, shows thoughtful circular economy thinking as well as the added benefit of suppliers who give back to the environment. The 20 EV charging points being proposed across Dundalk sites addresses transport sustainability needs - however this is down as a NEW project. Perhaps wait until such initiatives have been delivered. The successful mattress and sofa amnesty demonstrates effective waste management collaboration with Louth County Council. Dundalk Library's costume swap events provide excellent reuse opportunities for events that are sometimes annual and children have outgrown them by the next year. The vintage shop at NCBI creates excellent circular economy businesses. Your climate action talks in schools through the Louth Science Festival create important educational outreach. The energy efficiency improvements in County Hall (34% reduction since 2014) is impressive. Again you excel at developing synergistic projects like the Ukraine bike appeal partnership. This creates valuable reuse whilst supporting refugees. Your sustainability events and social media awareness weeks covering food waste, recycling and sustainable practices maintain year-round educational engagement.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your Adopt a Patch programme continues to deliver exceptional results, with over 40 volunteers collecting 800 bags of litter in 2024. The target of beating this impressive total in 2025 shows ambitious planning, with nearly 300 bags already collected. Hopefully as national education and awareness improve, this figure will go down, not up! The National Spring Clean engagement with St Patrick's Scout Group, Graebel, Buion Setanta Scout Group and local schools demonstrates excellent community mobilisation on your part. The QR codes will enable easier reporting of full or damaged bins - a very innovative citizen engagement project. The Dundalk River Clean in March addresses environmental as well as aesthetic concerns. Your ongoing sign audits, graffiti removal and general tidiness monitoring maintain high standards. No fresh litter was observed by this adjudicator - an amazing achievement for such a large town. Some small issues which I observed:

- Weeding was an issue in some areas like St. Mary's Church carpark, along kerbs and on paving
- Stickers, especially from vapes, was an issue on bins and the sculpture cases at the Market.
- Bins and seating at the Demesne need freshening up.

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

The Pumping Station Garden development by Pearse Park residents over the past two years is an example of outstanding grassroots community development. The fairy garden, new planting, painting and landscaping demonstrate wonderful voluntary commitment. The sustainable approach using recycled items and establishing a library also shows how they are being environmentally conscious. St Nicholas Avenue Residents Association continues to excel. Riverside Drive's new planting areas and boundary fence painting show continuing residential pride. Your assistance to Ard Dealgan and Greenacres in establishing new residents' associations extends community development capacity. Lismullen was also beautifully presented as were the homes on Jocelyn Street and Castle Road. Further out from town Bay Estate and Kingswood were maintained to a high standard. It is obvious you have great buy-in from local residents.

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

Your Active Travel R132 Inner Relief Road project progression to Phase 3 Preliminary Design represents a significant milestone. This was in 2022 though. Any new updates? The concept designs show planting and placemaking which is great to see. The Dundalk in Bloom project really has helped create an attractive town centre. Your planting of the parklets with colourful floral displays has enhanced the outdoor dining areas beautifully. The approach road pollinator bed restoration programme maintains welcoming first impressions.

Concluding Remarks:

Dundalk Tidy Towns continues to demonstrate exceptional leadership. The energy and innovation evident in your 2025 submission, from the comprehensive new website to the ambitious facades project, positions Dundalk as a beacon of what dedicated volunteers can achieve. Continue to share your experiences and successes with other communities, as your work serves as genuine inspiration to Tidy Towns groups across Ireland.