

# Tidy Towns Competition 2025

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Skerries - Na Sceirí** Ref: **178**  
County: **Dublin** Mark: **395**  
Category: **F** Date(s): **16/06/2025**  
**22/07/2025**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2024</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2025</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	57	60
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	53
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	50	52
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	31	32
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>395</b>

### **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.

Welcome back to Tidy Towns competition for another year. We can see that you have great collaborations within your community actively participating in Skerries Community Association with other groups including Sustainable Skerries who are doing fantastic work in this area. Good to hear the men's shed to help you with your painting, gardening and woodwork and you are certainly lucky to have ornithologist, ecologist and horticulturist all living in your community to advise you

You use many ways to communicate such as articles in local paper Instagram an active Facebook page with over 2000 followers. You regularly update your Facebook with post on your activities and user as an education forum to inform your community. It's good to see the youth engagement in Tidy Towns and delighted to hear of your work with them creating outdoor learning spaces and to see your recent post on Facebook on informing the Sea Scout group on the hazards of micro litter.

Your map is a little bit difficult to read and in parts to follow. Some of the text is so small that there were beyond the capability of this adjudicator and It would help if you indicated on the map which of your projects are new and which are maintenance projects.

It's great that you have entered the Tidy Towns competition since 1959 and we are delighted to have you back again for another year. It is evident from the impact that you have in the Skerries area that your residents are aware of the work you do to support the environment and are fully behind you 100%.

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

The Mills and surrounding areas are such a unique piece of our heritage and a lovely place to visit. Even though it was very early in the morning it was already being well utilised with many visitors. The car park looked very well after its resurface. It was well laid out with the new landscaping looking very smart. The meadows surrounding the car park were species rich which was lovely to see and can only improve year on year.

Spotting the various pieces of sculpture associated with the Skerries Art Trail was a fun experience during the visit and I'm sure many visitors to Skerries will enjoy this experience for years to come.

The Educate Together School is proudly flying it's green flag and the building is well presented and surrounding areas are neat and tidy. Great to see the accessibility of this area with separate bike and pedestrian paths into the school. Its so beneficial from an energy saving and for the health benefits to encourage the children to cycle to school. The wildflower meadow at the Educate Together national school is also full of a variety of wild flowers and nice to see the signs that it's managed for the rare large Carder bee. This adjudicator was hoping to spot one but was not successful, but a common Carder was spotted in the area

The gravel area the entrance to train station with two varieties of Erigeron which are both long flowering visually attractive and pollinator friendly. The shrubs under the Skerries train station entrance sign were also well chosen the Cotoneaster that was flowering there was buzzing with bees. No large Carder mainly buff tail bumbles to be seen though.

Marvellous to encourage the use of a Cúpla Focal by providing the local businesses signs as Gealige.. signs with "Dúnta/Oscailte" or "Fáilte Isteach/Slán go Fóill" and "Leithris" to encourage their use on doors, and toilets .  
An-Mhaith!

Skerries Point shopping centre exceptionally tidy for a busy area and was weed free and litter free. The car park is nicely planted with trees and great to see the mid story shrubs as well that are pollinator friendly and also provide shelter for birds and other small mammals.

Great to hear that you carried out a bat survey prior to executing the lighting of the church tower You followed the guidance in order to avoid disturbing local bat flight paths and roosting sites and utilised down lighting only. I didn't get to see it in action, but the photo looks lovely.

Business owners take great pride in how their business is presented in Skerries. Super Value makes a great effort with a very colourful display and LA Bakery was painted a lovely colour that went so well with their brick work. Bob's Family Entertainment Centre though does look very sad in such a prime location.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

Well done on planting 200 native trees in Saint Patrick's close in the Brook to strengthen the hedge and adding 3 new mini-Orchards to your collection. On adjudication day I visited the open orchards in Town Parks and Selskar Court. Its wonderful to see these orchards and many apples were visible on many of the trees. I do think strong grasses surrounding many of the trees were providing competition to the roots of these newly planted trees and they would benefit, particularly in Selskar Court, from either cardboard collar around the small trees to suppress the weeds or trampling of the growth around the trees just to give the trees a chance to get more established.

The gravel bed where the anchor is located and Skerries is at the entrance to Skerries town looks very well planted and very well maintained around the skerries sign The areas left wild and grew around the edge of the car park as you enter scary Mills are looking really well lots of flowers, kidney vetch clover and some Ragwort about to come into flower plenty of variety for the Polynesian which is lovely to see tall herb that is tall Plant on the left as well as well

The grass area of the path at to the right of the Educate Together school looks like a good location for a little bit of mixed -level planting of native hedging and trees. There are a few trees already, but it would be great of the to get some native hedging in as well in this area. We focus a lot on trees and meadows but as per the All-Ireland Pollinator planting more native hedges will add to your corridors and provide winter shelter.

As mentioned last year by your adjudicator the planting in the hanging baskets and 3 tiered planters are not pollinator friendly planting. They are mainly composed of petunias and these are not considered pollen or nectar rich.

The whole area allowed to grow wild as part of your wildlife corridor along Barnageeragh road is wealth of wildflowers. It's a credit to your team.

You mention in your application that you maintain the perimeter of the train station as a wildlife friendly area but it does look a little is a little unkempt in places with many dead shrubs evident and litter in the undergrowth. Perhaps managed for wildlife signs would help to explain this. The trees on the road edge on South Strand Street are nice and healthy but have a lot of small side branches lower down the tree stems and would benefit from removal. It would re-shape and tidy the trees.

The Community Garden at the Mill was awash with colour and an exuberance of planting full of flowers and well-maintained. Great to see the upcoming Wild bee festival which was well advertised around Skerries. I hope it goes well.

The planting around the Cormorant sculpture was very attractive and full of appropriate plants this location.

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

In this section your speciality seems to be habitat management, and you are very actively following the recommendation of the FCC-funded ecological survey and Biodiversity Action Plan by Coiscéim. The extensive actions you are taking to care for your local habitats is wonderful work. Examples include thickening the hedgerow between the meadow and the large windmill, planting native tree whips in areas like St. Patrick's Close, Sherlock Park, and around the Mill Pond and Mill stream, distributing 450 pollinator-friendly perennials to households in targeted areas to support biodiversity corridors, 3 new orchards, leaving exposed soil at the Mill for solitary bees, clearing 50% of the bulrush in the Kybe Pond and allowing the grassland at the Mill develop as meadow. Truly inspiring work by your group with collaboration with many other groups.

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

This is a very active section for the Skerries community with many extremely worthwhile and very admirable projects ongoing and being managed by the Sustainable Skerries group who you work with under the umbrella of the Skerries Community Association.

The tidy towns team also support sustainable habits and practices by doing more with less, encouraging carpooling, walking, or cycling to meetings and work parties. They avoid using pesticides, and their meetings are zero waste and plastic-free. They also focus on reusing and salvaging materials, such as drying and sharing wood salvaged from the stream for use in wood-burning stoves.

I would be interested to hear more on the sustainable practices within the Tidy towns team and tidy towns team are doing directly to support encourage sustainability and circular economy in Skerries. How you are quantifying your successes. How many of your plants are propagated yourselves? What about compost use or plant fertiliser? Are

you making your own ? How much of it is produced by yourselves versus how much is bought? Have you organised any clothes swaps plant or seed swaps?

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

You have great focus on this aspect and work hard to keep Skerries shipshape. As well as the regular litter picks by your volunteers and participating in the Spring clean there are also some very good initiatives involving other community groups such as the diligent work of Currachai Na Sceiri working on the local islands picking up 22,400 pieces of plastic since 2016 and other rubbish, recruiting the Grow Remote group to participate in litter picking, weeding and painting and an annual program with the third class students of the three national schools who are take part as Skerries Everyone Against Litter (SEALs) . You tell us in your application that you give them a talk every year caring for their place and they perform weekly litter picks. It's great to involve youth early and develop their pride in their community. Nice to see all the little water pumps so well maintained all the litter bins were recently emptied. The fruits of all your labour was evident during the majority of places both residential and village streets and roads during the visit were litter free and the kerbs weed free. Some fresh litter was noted at the train station entrance and around the Station car park edges. The bottle bank was well presented tidy and clean.

The little old-style post-box out front of Skerries Point shopping centre could do with some maintenance & painting and a few worn signs were spotted during the visit such as the parking sign on Station Road at the station. The signage on the beach side South Strand looks a little cluttered with 4 signs on a row. The ones for Skerries Beach and Costa Glas award look a little tired. There's also a 'no cycling' sign on the path in this area which is faded and nearly illegible. The chestnut paling fencing is broken and fallen over in many places along this strand.

The street signs appeared to be in excellent condition with their green and white colour scheme, and the street furniture was well maintained. We noted from your application that there is significant hand weeding of kerbs being undertaken by residents and the Tidy Towns team. This task can be both challenging and time-consuming. Have you considered the use of mechanical equipment, such as a Weedex machine, to manage weed growth? These machines have been successfully utilized by other groups and could greatly alleviate the strain associated with this task.

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

I visited many estates and residential streets including Station Road, Millers Lane, Shenick Rd., Town Parks, Seacrest Selkar ,Guillmot, Barnageeragh Cove and it was obvious that you have many engaged residents in Skerries. From the dog walkers who were seen picking up after their dogs to the residents seen out maintaining the front of their properties. Its obvious residents take enormous pride in their houses and how they presented to the street. Throughout many of the estates and residential roads there are little touches such as beds of flowers and containers on street corners and all adding to the attractiveness of the display. There was a gorgeous bed of pollinator friendly annuals planted in the grass in Town Parks estate and as you entered Millers Lane on the right-hand side across from the on the roundabout, a planting of sweet peas on the railings which looked lovely. The estates and residential streets litter free and most of the curbing was weed free.

Most of the housing estates did not have seating areas Perhaps it could be considered as seating areas can become gathering places for the residents to sit and chat.

The practice seems to be to leave the areas around trees longer which makes sense from a maintenance perspective but in some areas the rest of the grass was very tightly mown. Could the areas that are allowed to grow be extended? As per the All-Ireland Pollinator plan the recommendation is to reduce mowing frequency to monthly and cut a little higher and let the daisy clover and butter cups bloom. If it the remaining green areas could be left with to become these little mini-meadows it would be significantly extend your wildlife corridors.

In the front of Guillemot estate there is a well-worn desire path running diagonally crossing a lovely wildflower meadow to Barnageeragh road. It's well used by residents and perhaps it's time to make that path official.

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

All the Skerries approach roads very nicely maintained litter free and everywhere was well signposted and easy to access. As mentioned above grass in the verges could also be left a little longer and cut less frequently. Good to see the installation of additional dipped kerbing leading to raised pedestrian crossing areas has been installed at the junction of Barnageeragh Road and Harrison Bay Road. This will benefit accessibility. The roundabout at Millers Lane Dublin Road is planted very well and landscaped beautifully with structural dwarf Pines and lots of different varieties of perennials.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

I really enjoyed my visit to Skerries. As a first-time visitor I was very impressed with the town and its varied habitats. It was also inspirational to read about all the wonderful projects on going in your community. The committee and the residents of Skerries are to be commended for their great work.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The second adjudication of Skerries took place on a lovely sunny day, with plenty of activity in the town and on the beach, where families were enjoying the waves coming in from the Irish Sea.

The town, whose population has grown to approximately 11,000, looked very well on the day, and many of the properties, both commercial and private, were in top-class condition, creating a very inviting impression.

The adjudicator was impressed with the entry form, which was very informative and provided detailed descriptions of the work you have undertaken in the past year, as well as your plans for the future.

The first adjudication effectively and accurately captures this, reflecting your entry within an overall context.

The map supplied was, as the first adjudicator stated, a little hard to read, so one had to engage the help of a magnifying glass as well as referring to Google, which on this occasion didn't lead one astray! The committee structure is straightforward, but it's impressive how you consistently manage 300 volunteers. A review of the entry form shows that various skills are essential for the many activities involved. Congratulations on effectively managing this large team and meeting your work schedules.

The "Residents with Skills" category under "Voluntary Commitment" could be expanded to include those with additional vocational skills!

The Tidy Towns Committee is part of the Skerries Community Association, which connects you with other subgroups like Skerries Energy Efficiency and Town Twinning.

Well done on the continuation of the Adoption Scheme a programme that has worked well for many Tidy Towns Committees around the country

You have strong connections with Fingal County Council, various public bodies, and numerous national and local associations.

The business community and other local organisations and clubs support your efforts, and you maintain a positive and practical relationship with local schools.

This relationship is crucial for encouraging younger members to join and contribute to your valuable work in the future.

Methods of communication combine traditional practices with various forms of social media that are now a standard part of everyday life.

You have an exceptional Facebook page, which is bang up to date with content and mini video snippets of volunteers in action.

Well done to whoever is responsible for managing your social media content and looking after your web presence.

Skerries has been participating in the competition for a long time, and your involvement has been well acknowledged in the first adjudication.

The following are personal observations made by the adjudicator, in accordance with the competition guidelines, during an engaging walk around the town and its immediate outskirts.

It's been a few years since the adjudicator last visited Skerries, during which many positive changes have occurred.

The public realm work that has taken place has been notable, and the adjudicator was very impressed with the work undertaken at the Carnegie Library and in front of St Patrick's RC Church.

Excellent widened footpath with public seating and bike stands.

The front entrance to the library was closed as internal work was still ongoing.

The Patrick's Way & Art Trail, a 5 km coastal walking trail featuring public art installations, map boards, and information panels along the route, was walked by the adjudicator and is a wonderful art-oriented project.

Skerries has a large number of lanes and openings and the adjudicator was curious about the origins of Madigan's Lane – had it a Limerick or West Limerick to be precise, connection?

Community-led sustainability and environmental projects were prominent, with various initiatives highlighted on the entry form.

These initiatives included the creation of rain gardens, bee gardens, pollinator plantings, stream clean-ups, and wildflower plantings.

Support is forthcoming from other stakeholders, such as Sustainable Skerries and the Skerries Mills Community Gardens.

It is safe to say that one could spend most of the day in the Skerries Mills area and remain thoroughly engaged.

The Skerries Town Park Playground offers a well-designed and secure play environment for children, conveniently situated near North Beach.

The adjudicator was impressed by the outdoor table tennis, draughts board, and sports and leisure equipment box sponsored by Active Cities Dublin.

Additionally, there is an informative panel at the mill that details the history of farming in Skerries.

The Mill itself is currently undergoing redevelopment.

The public toilets along the South Strand were quite satisfactory and are housed in a well-maintained stone building.

The educational institutions, including Skerries Community College, St. Patrick's Junior and Senior Schools, and Realt na Mara, were all well-presented on that day.

St. Patrick's RC Church has already been favourably mentioned elsewhere. Skerries Cornerstone Church is a historically significant building, as is the Church of Ireland, Holmpatrick, located near the Town Park.

Credit is owed to all the personnel responsible for maintaining these public facilities and presenting them to a very high standard.

Skerries Garda Station, located near Little Strand Street, is one of the best-presented Garda stations still in operation in the country.

The following shop fronts particularly stood out to this adjudicator: Bert's Barber Shop, which features two chairs at the front of the premises; Venezuela; Mua; Keane's Bus Bar; Grimes, located at the corner of Thomas Hand Street; Bloodworks; The Shoe Horn; and the Butcher Boy, which serves excellent food.

Additionally, the lovely Thatched Cottage, with its impressive planters in front, also caught the eye.

The adjudicator acknowledged your inputs regarding Green Spaces and Landscaping, all of which have been thoroughly addressed objectively by the first adjudicator.

This adjudicator was impressed with the Community Garden, a treasured local green space in the grounds of Skerries Mills and managed by the volunteer-driven Skerries Community Association, Sustainable Skerries, and Skerries Tidy Towns.

Skerries is lucky to have a varied range of landscaped and individual planting arrangements in both central areas and at the entrances to the town.

Skerries Wild Bee Festival, which took place last month, offered family-friendly talks, nature walks, workshops, and bee-themed fun and was supported by Fingal County Council.

Stream Huggers is an unusual name, but they carry out very practical work, so well done to all involved.

Well done also on increasing the number of mini orchards and distributing over 450 pollinator-friendly perennials to households in selected areas.

"Sustainability: Doing More with Less" emphasizes maximizing efficiency and reducing waste to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Your input aligns with the above ethos and has been addressed in detail in the initial report.

You have received marks over the last few years that are above the average for this category.

The litter control measures were effective, and the overall cleanliness of the area was satisfactory.

Business owners, individual property owners, and groups such as "Grow Remote," which emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, responded positively to calls for improved litter management and general tidiness.

Skerries boasts numerous housing developments both within the town and on its outskirts, with most homeowners maintaining their properties to a high standard.

This dedication can largely be attributed to the efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee, which promotes community involvement among local resident associations.

Both entrances to Skerries—coming from either side of R127 and R128 near Rush—are inviting and well-presented.

In summary, the second adjudication serves to clarify and support the findings of the first adjudication, confirming that it was conducted fairly and objectively.

The mark awarded is a fair reflection of the town's performance and reflects positively on you as the committee.

Thank you, and best wishes for many more years of involvement in the competition.