

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYFERMOT**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 23 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 11 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 19 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 16 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 9 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 14 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 18 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 133 |

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

We welcome Ballyfermot to the Tidy Towns competition and we thank your committee for the entry form and map which were very helpful on the day of the inspection. Your group has already made contact with some of the statutory bodies and local organisations in your area. We would encourage you to continue this contact which will be helpful in terms of producing a work programme/plan for next years competition. A suggestion for next year would be to encourage more local organisations, businesses, companies and youth groups to become actively involved with your committees work.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Grand Canal is an important natural amenity in Ballyfermot and the OPW Development Plan to improve this waterway will benefit the area in the long-term. Other suggestions for the future development of wildlife in the area include steps taken to encourage different types of wildlife, amenity walks and trails, appropriate management of access to natural amenities and wildlife areas.

LANDSCAPING

The two large roundabouts on the Ballyfermot Road have been nicely landscaped with flowers, shrubs and trees. However, there was a lot of litter lodged in the grass and flower beds which needs to be regularly removed. The planting of trees in the village area must be complimented and a suggestion might be to plant some flowers at the base of each one. Many of the open spaces in the residential areas as well as the parks suffer from litter. Management of these areas needs to improve. The area could benefit from appropriate selection and siting of trees, shrubs and flowers for a year round effect.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is room for improvement with many of the buildings in the main shopping area. The facade of the Gala Building is in need of repair and shops and businesses should be encouraged to install hanging baskets or flower boxes to brighten up the street. The shopping area tends to suffer from litter and graffiti and the rear of the centre needs to be cleaned up. The telephone boxes and bus shelters need to be repaired. Most of the school grounds in the area are clean and tidy, however, there was some litter present in the schools off the Gurteen Road and Kylemore Road.

The Community Centre and Health Centre buildings need to be repainted and tidied up. The church grounds off Blackditch Drive are nicely presented but the open grass area to the rear is very untidy and littered. The Cherry Orchard Hospital and its grounds must be complimented on their landscaping and the wooden flower boxes are particularly attractive. The BLCO Sports and Leisure Centre needs to tidy up its grounds by cutting the grass and perhaps planting some trees and flowers. The facades of the Social Welfare Office and Garda Station could be brightened up and there is a need to remove grass from the kerbs. Many of the shop fronts, as well as the large open space at Drumfinn Park need to be cleaned up. The grounds of the College and Monastery beside Le Fanu Road, the FÁS Training Centre and the Church on the corner of Kylemore Road are to be commended on their tidy grounds. Ruby Finnigans Pub is also quite attractive due to the flowers at the front of the pub as well as having a tidy car park.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter and dumping are a problem in the Ballyfermot area. The committee should encourage local businesses and residents associations to tidy and clean their own immediate environments. In addition, the committee should consult with the local authority on street cleaning programmes in the area.

TIDINESS

Encouraging your local residents associations and commercial premises to have regular clean-up days will contribute to overall tidiness. Fly posters can also detract from the overall tidiness of the area. It is important to control weed growth in kerbsides and at the base of trees, buildings and walls. There is a need for some recycling facilities to be made available. A bottle bank at the rear of the hospital was the only such facility located on the day of the inspection.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the residential estates in the area suffer from litter as well as weed growth at kerbs and at the base of buildings and walls. In some areas there is also a problem with graffiti. Residents should be encouraged to maintain their gardens and paths in order to improve the housing estates. The open communal areas of Kylemore Avenue, Spiddal Park and Drumfinn Park need to be cleaned up. Father Bidone Court just off the Sarsfield Road must be complimented on its landscaping. The new Whitethorn estate was relatively litter free on the day of the inspection.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Le Fanu Park Road and Kileen Road suffer from litter and some graffiti. Litter needs to be removed from the grass verges along the Cold Cut Road and Ballyfermot Road. The railings at the entrance to Markievicz Park on the Ballyfermot Road need to be repaired. Many of the industrial premises in the area, particularly along the Kylemore Road should be encouraged to tidy up their premises as well as plant trees, shrubs and flowers. The Faulkner Group on the Chapelizod Road are to be commended on the effort they have made in their grounds. The forecourts of the Esso and Texaco stations on the Sarsfield Road were clean and tidy on the day of the inspection. The grounds of the Liffey Gaels GAA Club were also well presented and they could perhaps plant some shrubs or flowers to enhance this.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Encouraging more local organisations, businesses and groups to become actively involved in the Tidy Towns effort will help to enhance the overall presentation of Ballyfermot.