

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BLACKROCK**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	184

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the submitted form and map which were both useful on the day of adjudication. We congratulate the Blackrock All Seasons Tidy Towns Committee for their dedication and their fine achievements to date. Blackrock continues to improve manifold with each visit to the area. The committee have a good working relationship with many influential groups in the area which is the key to successful developments.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The committee's interest in preserving the local wildlife of the area is to be commended. There are few havens for wildlife in urban areas, so it is very important to ensure these are cared for and monitored. It may be possible to get school children involved in assessing the variety and type of wildlife in the area. Blackrock's proximity to the coast would suggest there may be a rich marine wildlife in the locality. The addition of swans to the park would be an attractive feature but may have a negative impact on the existing moorhens and should be carefully assessed.

LANDSCAPING

The parks of Blackrock are in general very well maintained and a joy to visit. Given the number and size of these parks it is inevitable that there are a few negative aspects which detract from the overall presentation, namely the existence of graffiti and overgrown areas which in turn attract weeds and litter. Perhaps these areas could be looked at for next year's competition. The landscaped area in front of the new Lisalea apartments is attractive as is the monument on Temple Hill. The flower tubs located on the median strip on Frascati Road look splendid. The fine efforts made by the Blackrock Shopping Centre and the Dart Station are to be commended. The window boxes and hanging baskets are a welcome addition to the main street and should be encouraged elsewhere. The landscaped area on the corner of Frascati Road and Carysfort Road is un-kept and attracting litter.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In general the businesses located in Blackrock take great pride in the presentation of their premises. New premises such as the Garda station and the Wicked Wolf are a welcome addition to the streetscape. We look forward to the completion of the Carysfort Court complex for next year. The Catholic Church Grounds are well cared for as were Amev House and Eagle Star. The car park and bus stop at the Dart Station are in need of attention, as they currently attract much litter and the boundary walls are in need of repair. Both shopping centres and their respective car parks were well presented. The Dart Station would benefit from a new coat of paint.

LITTER CONTROL

Improvements in litter control are very much in evidence along the main street and Rock Road, well done to all those involved. Litter continues to be a problem along Newtownpark Avenue, Frascati Road and the area surrounding the Dart Station, though to a lesser extent. There is only one litter bin in existence outside the Dart Station which cannot cope with the volume of litter. The park on Newtown Avenue has attracted much litter.

TIDINESS

Flyposting was again in evidence at the junction of Carysfort Avenue and Frascati Road. We recognise that this problem is difficult to curb but this gives a very negative image to the streetscape. Graffiti was present on the sculpture in the park beside Newtown Park, Carraig Park and on Rock Road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As with previous years the presentation of residential areas is exceptional. Idrone Terrace looks splendid with painted lampposts and flower tubs. The seating could perhaps be repaired where required. Rockwell Cove was very well kept. Maretimo Gardens and Maretimo Place had colourful gardens all in bloom and were litter-free. Shame about the burnt-out car at the entrance to Maretimo Road. Weed control could be improved in Maretimo Place. The new apartments on the main street and the Lisalea apartments look well as do the Sion Hill premises. Barclay Court is neat but would benefit from a stricter weed control routine, perhaps more residents here could be encouraged to become involved.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Lane-ways leading off the main street are very attractive with the addition of window boxes and are litter free. The Mount Merrion approach to Blackrock is very attractive as is the approach from the city along Rock Road. The delightful flower bed planted on the verge of the park leading off Temple Hill makes this route also attractive. However more attention needs to be placed on the removal of weeds from the base of walls and kerbsides. Plastic streamers were also tied to the railing. Some weeds and litter were present in residential back-areas. The pathway leading from Barclay Court to Carraig Park is overgrown and the grass verge needs to be cut.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Many improvements have taken place in Blackrock for which the committee are congratulated. It is obvious that the committee enjoys the support and co-operation of many important groups and bodies, which makes many of these improvements possible. We look forward to our visit to Blackrock again next year to view many of the exciting projects you have suggested in your plans.