

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **RAHENY**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed questionnaire and town plan, submitted for this years competition. The committee has targeted a number of important areas in need of attention. As a suggestion for next year's entry, it may be an idea to draw up a 3-5 year plan to carry out work and identify future projects. The plan will also help to make development more balanced and co-ordinated.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The committee has already identified the riverside area adjacent to the shopping complex on the Howth Road. This area has the potential to become a wonderful natural amenity for the people of Raheny. It needs, however, much work. Weeds are overgrown, much litter is present and there is graffiti on the adjoining wall. The cycle path is again another important amenity which requires attention. The playing fields on Watermill Road looked very well on the day of adjudication, apart from some incidental litter near the roadside.

LANDSCAPING

Well done to the committee on the extensive programme of tree planting undertaken to date. The planting of annual flowers at the base of such trees should be extended to all areas as this looks very attractive. The Welcome to Raheny signpost on the Watermill Road is a good idea but it should perhaps be free-standing on a raised-bed of flowers to highlight it better. The green area adjoining the Scoil Assam property on the Watermill Road needs attention. The fencing should be repaired or removed. The area targeted by the committee beside St Marys Convent is indeed unsightly and we look forward to work being done here for next years competition. The addition of a flower bed would be nice at this site. The wheelchair ramps to the entrance of Avondale Park need attention. The recently landscaped grounds of the library look very attractive. Well done. However, do not overlook other planted areas on the grounds.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The shopping complex on the Howth Road was tidy, as was the adjoining car park. Perhaps window boxes could be considered for the balcony of the complex to add a splash of colour. Across the road the shops were also nicely presented. There was, however, some incidental litter in the parking area to the front of these shops. The new church grounds were well kept. The garda station was tidy, as was the Maxol garage, the beauty salon/fitness club and the Bank of Ireland. Both the Manor House School and the Scoil Assam grounds were nicely presented. However, litter was apparent in both locations. The grounds of the youth club were overgrown, as were the grounds to the rear of Tracy Boys F.C. where graffiti was also present.

LITTER CONTROL

There is much litter in evidence along the roadsides of the busy routes through Raheny, such as Howth Road, Watermill Road and Station Road. Litter was also concealed in landscaped areas of the Dart station. Despite the presence of litter bins on the Main Street, incidental litter was still present. Car parking areas were relatively litter-free as were the shopping areas, despite the heavy traffic to and from these areas. The committee must be more vigilant in preventing the growth of this litter problem. It may be an ideal opportunity to get younger people involved, especially in clean-ups of areas used for their activities such as the youth club, school areas and playing courts and field.

TIDINESS

In general, most areas were well presented this year, with the exception of some trouble spots. Some were mentioned in last year's report; also troublesome are the open green areas adjacent to Scoil

Assam, St Marys Convent and the Tracy Boys F.C. These areas will require much work if Raheny is to improve on its marks in this section. A litter bin may help to cope with the accumulation of litter at the landscaped seated area beside the river on Howth Road. Weeds also need to be removed. Particular praise should be given to residential areas and retailers for the tidy appearance of their premises.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most residential areas looked splendid, with the flower and tree planting very impressive. Rathmore Park looked very attractive with the addition of colourful flower baskets adorning the entrance wall. The flower beds at the entrance to Maywood and Bettyglen are, again this year, superb; open grass areas should, however, be cut. The white houses of Avondale Park looked very well against the backdrop of their respective gardens. Both St Assams Avenue and St Assams Road were tidy. Watermill Drive was nicely presented; shame about the graffiti present on the building at the entrance. More attention needs to be paid to kerbsides and footpaths to remove grass and weeds.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Back routes to residential areas were tidy and well maintained on the whole. The rear entrance to Scoil Assam National School, however, was in bad condition, with weeds and much litter present. The planted areas along roadsides, particularly those located at the junction of Station Road and Howth Road are very attractive. The appearance of approach roads are important as the first impression given to visitors of an area. Do not overlook the tedious task of removing weeds from kerbsides.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Some very worthwhile work has been achieved by the committee particularly in the area of tree and flower planting. However, do not omit other more tedious tasks such as the removal of litter and weeds from your schedule. Congratulations for the progress made to date and we look forward to visiting Raheny again next year.