

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SKERRIES**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Skerries was a pleasure to adjudicate on a bright, sunny, warm summer's day. The town looked quite magnificent with its many landscaped areas. It is good to note that the committee have a work programme spanning a number of years and we wish you well in the implementation of projects identified in the plan. There is obviously good co-ordination between the committee, the local community and the local authority. Persist in your efforts to have service cables either re-routed or ducted to minimise the adverse impact of the wirescape. The town is being considered for a number of awards.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The information on the wildlife of the area and the islands along the seafront is useful, however it would be worthwhile developing a wildlife area to display wildflowers or plants in some part of the town or perhaps on approach roads. Additional information regarding the seals who inhabit the waters around Skerries might be provided for the general public together with some information on their patterns of behaviour.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaped areas throughout the town but particularly marking entrances to the town are enviable and Skerries is being considered for the landscape award. It is noted that Skerries is Ireland's entry in 1996 for the Entente Florale. The flower displays and maturing trees along Balbriggan Street are quite magnificent as are flower displays, trees and shrubberies at the bridge marking the entrance from the main road. The grassed banks in the railway station might now be landscaped. Some landscaping has been noted here but this could be extended. The space beside the library might also be landscaped. Additional planting on the green area along the seafront might also be considered.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of buildings in the town are well presented. An important focal point in the townscape is the Joe's and Value Tile premises. These occupy a strategic site and should always be presented to the highest standard. At the time of adjudication they were in need of upgrading. Other buildings in need of attention include Tony's Newsagents. The canopy here is in need of attention. Posters should be eliminated from the windows of buildings as they can tend to look unsightly and detract from the overall presentation of buildings. This is particularly so in the Tri-star Travel premises. The canopy on Kay's was quite tatty in appearance. The remaining traditional architectural features on the JP Lennox premises should be retained. The aluminium door on this property is unfortunate. The stone wall and young trees at the Funfair looks particularly well. The Stoop Your Head premises at the harbour could be cleaned and / or painted to its roadside.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good overall in Skerries, however it was weakest along the main thoroughfare, that is along the Main Street, particularly around the seated area. This was unfortunate. Litter was also noted along the green area on the Strand and at the road down by the harbour. Greater efforts will have to be made in regards to litter control as poor litter control can detract from other efforts in the competition such as landscaping.

TIDINESS

Weed growth was noted at a number of locations, for example along the footpath on the Rush Road and in other areas, this should be eliminated. Don't forget to remove all traces of building materials when construction work has ceased as this can also give a very untidy appearance. A small green area at the

stone wall on the Ardgillan Road was underdeveloped. A tatty advertisement hoarding at the station should be removed. A skip located at a premises opposite the Strand spoiled an otherwise good presentation around this area. An untidy littered corner between the harbour and Red island presented a problem. In general derelict buildings are being well maintained at the entrance to the harbour to the Main Street.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A new residential development on the Rush Road was excellent in its presentation. Some boundary walls in Shenick Park were in need of attention. North Cliff Heights looked particularly well. A specimen tree is suggested for the corner green open space in this estate plus some public seating. Perhaps an Oak tree would be appropriate. The Scoil Realt Na Mara estate is spoilt by weedy footpaths and an undeveloped green area. New developments on the Balbriggan entrance were incomplete, ensure a high standard of finish. The linear green area in the residential development leading up to the railway station could be planted. A small green open space in the Kybe residential development was overgrown. Residential properties along the entrance into the town from the main road was excellent in all respects. A good effort under this heading, well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The footpath leading out the Rush Road needs to be reinstated and the speed limit sign refurbished. A nameplate should also be provided. The carpark at Red Island is excellent in its presentation and toilets are reasonably well presented also. Street furniture looks well but is inconsistent in style. The wirescape looks quite bad and no effort should be spared in having it either eliminated altogether or cables re-routed to run parallel to buildings rather than criss-crossing the street. Most side and back areas were reasonably well presented and approach roads were excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Skerries is impressive due to the beautifully landscaped areas, however the experience of the town centre can be a little disappointing in respect of a less than excellent standard of litter control, this will have to be rectified. Congratulations on an excellent presentation this year and well done!

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/96)

Skerries looked truly splendid on a sunny August evening, with its profusion of flowers displayed for the imminent judging of the Entente Florale competition. Best of luck to you in it! The town was also a hive of industry and activity around the busy harbour area and throughout the streets a multitude of litter wardens were spotted! The buildings throughout the town generally looked very fresh apart from those noted in the first adjudication - Joe's and Valu tile which appear to have closed down. The few remaining inappropriate plastic signs should be replaced, as should the curved plastic canopies to Charmaine's, Nu shoes, Tony's and Ronnies. These should be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings.