

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **HOWTH**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	188	182

Howth, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application form, backup materials and photos which were very helpful on adjudication day. Congratulations on your achievements in the last year - Fingal County Council has shown great commitment to your shared vision for the town by including Howth in the 'Village and Urban Renewal Scheme'. Your committee or sub-committees should concentrate on the areas of litter control, graffiti and general tidiness, as these are the weakest areas. The built environment has now achieved a high standard of presentation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard of buildings both commercial and residential areas has improved significantly in the last number of years and with the exception of one or two buildings (e.g. Molly Malone's) is now an attractive place to visit despite being a busy working fishing port. The creative new seating and stonework in front of the old Abbey (beside the Abbey Tavern) was just being completed at the time of adjudication and will further enhance this street. The Bloody Stream was once again very well presented. The derelict building with graffiti in the car park of the summit detracts from an otherwise well-maintained and attractive area. Some other Tidy Towns Committees have come up with some creative ideas to overcome this type of problem. Howth Castle and The Transport Museum were well presented and litter free.

LANDSCAPING

You are commended on your work with flower planting most notably beside the Old CourtHouse and along Harbour Road. Encourage a tree planting programme for various other sites in the town for year round effect. The green triangle just above the Church on Abbey Street could benefit from attention and could be a nice feature in this part of the town. The historical content is very high. The pier area, which is greatly improved, could be further enhanced with some flower tubs. Welcome signs with some landscaping would further enhance the entrance to the village, particularly on the Howth Road entrance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

With a long history of being a fishing village, the combination of the sounds and smells of the busy fishing piers and sailing vessels is a wonderful natural amenity. Howth Head with its hill walks and beautiful views, flora and fauna etc., is quite unique in Dublin. More information panels, to complement guided walks, to highlight the birds and the fish caught in the harbour and many other aspects of Howth would greatly enhance the area and make a visit more meaningful for the community and visitors.

LITTER CONTROL

This section was particularly disappointing on adjudication day. There were several examples of overflowing litterbins, litter was scattered

along the pier side path at Harbour Road and at several places along the pier area as well as at the summit. There was a lot of litter and open black sacks beside the recycling area in the car park opposite the Old CourtHouse. There was some incidental litter in residential areas, mostly along the busier roads. A sub-committee should be formed to tackle this problem alone, to work with the local authority i.e. if more collections are required or different times etc. Many of the bins need repainting and many along the seafront road had graffiti on them.

TIDINESS

In general, there has been a great improvement in the area of tidiness, particularly with the improved standard of the presentation of buildings. However, the litter problem has detracted from many areas that would otherwise appear tidy and attractive. Graffiti on the bus shelter at Harbour Road should be removed and is very unsightly in this prominent part of the village. (This was also mentioned in last year's report). There was also a burnt out car in the car park near the Martello Tower. The walls in the car park also are covered in graffiti.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall, residential areas are presented to a very high standard. However, more attention is required e.g. weeds at base of trees, walls and overgrown grass in the common areas and verges. Residents need to be further encouraged to extend their good standards of presentation of private gardens to common areas to outside their properties. Significant increase in marks can be achieved through this approach. It appears that there are some street names missing from some residential areas which should be replaced.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some back areas would benefit from tidying up and cutting back of hedging etc. Removal of weeds at base of trees and walls can greatly improve these areas. There was some incidental litter in some back areas that appears to have been there for some time and should be removed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

"Welcome to Howth" signs would be an added attraction. We look forward to the completion of many of the projects underway and planned under the Howth Village Renewal Programme. The Traffic Calming Plan should also be completed for next year's competition along with the Martello Tower project. You are also to be congratulated on securing support and services from different sectors to assist you in your plans. Howth is well placed to achieve a significant increase in marks if these projects, along with tackling the litter and graffiti problems, can be achieved.