

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SANDYMOUNT**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	17
Litter Control	40	18	21
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	185	191

Sandymount, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form submitted for this year's competition, we would ask you to also submit a map for next year highlighting the areas where improvements and developments have taken place. The forty street co-ordinators operating alongside your committee are obviously making an excellent effort in keeping Sandymount clean in the residential areas. We did note a sign in your village green asking for more people to get involved and this would certainly be welcome, especially some young people. We would encourage you to develop a 3-5 year development plan which would give some further structure to your efforts.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some of the premises in the centre of the village have obviously made an excellent effort to improve their buildings and we made particular note of Michael Cusack Solicitors and the Inspector of Taxes Office which had some beautiful shrubbery outside it. The flower boxes outside Ryans also looked well. O'Reillys Pub and the Park Avenue Medical Centre also looked very well on the day of adjudication. The Community Centre has also been improved since last year and we commend you on your efforts although some litter control is still needed in this area. St. John's Church looked wonderful after the recent work carried out on it.

LANDSCAPING

While there are some beautifully landscaped areas in Sandymount, by and large the amount of litter and graffiti in these areas greatly detracted from them. The Green in Sandymount village was beautifully landscaped and some attractive landscaping has also been carried out in various locations within the residential areas in Sandymount. The landscaping surrounding the Martello Tower in Sandymount is also very attractive and was very colourful on the day of adjudication. The areas outside Radcliffe Hall Apartments and Ailesbury Private Nursing Home were also beautifully landscaped. The Dodder Wildlife Park would benefit from some landscaping to improve this local amenity.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Dodder Wildlife Park, which could be an excellent amenity in Sandymount, was overgrown, strewn with litter and the benches were covered in graffiti on the day of our visit. The water was quite dirty and we noted a number of traffic cones thrown over the bridge. We note from your application that ongoing maintenance is taking place on this area and we would strongly encourage your efforts in this regard. We were happy to note, however, that the area seemed better maintained as you approached Lansdowne Village. You are also very fortunate in Sandymount to have the beautiful coastal landscape along the border of your area. There was, however, much litter on the strand on the day of our visit including a number of old tyres. Litter was also congregating at the base of the wall running along the strand from Strand Road.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is the area that needs your special attention for next year's competition. On the day of adjudication, Sandymount Green was strewn with litter and we noticed it seems to congregate around the benches although there was a bin nearby. Plastic bags had gathered at the edge of the Green and within the trees, giving an overall appearance of untidiness to the village. We hope that you succeed with your request to Dublin Corporation to provide extra litter bins throughout the village as they are very much needed. The area surrounding the strand was also in a dreadful state with litter. While accepting that the day of the adjudication was particularly sunny with many visitors to the area, it seemed that much of the rubbish had been there for some time, especially that which had gathered underneath the trees/shrubs. Cigarette butts also seem to be a problem along the kerbs close to the Martello Tower. It would be beneficial to have a litter warden present in Sandymount on sunny days which could act as a deterrent to this widespread problem. Seafort Avenue was another blackspot for litter but we were pleased to see a new bin in place at the bus stop which should help to address the problem here. Guilford Avenue and Guilford Road also had some incidental litter. However, we were happy to see that areas such as Park Lane, Guilford Drive and Willowfield Park were virtually litter free on the day of adjudication. There was some dumping at the gates to Avondale Mews and the DART station needs more bins to control the litter there.

TIDINESS

Some effort needs to be made to combat graffiti in Sandymount, especially on the many benches in the area. The seating in Sandymount Green is in need of a repaint as are the benches close to the Dodder Wildlife Park. Graffiti was also evident on the bins in Sandymount Green, the letter box on Guilford Road, along Park Avenue (post box, ESB box and white wall) and at the lamppost on Sandymount Green opposite Ryan's Pub. Some kerb control is needed on Seafort Avenue, Tritonville Road and Newbridge Avenue to maintain what are otherwise attractive streetscapes. We commend the recycling facility beside the Lansdowne DART station and would encourage its further usage. The steps from Strand Road onto the beach are also in need of a repaint as they are very rusty.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

For the most part the residential areas of Sandymount are well kept and there are obviously many keen gardeners in your area. Seafort Villas in particular had many nice flower boxes and Martello Wood, St. Johns Road and Willowfield were nicely maintained. Radcliffe Hall Apartments are an attractive new addition to the area and are beautifully landscaped. We noted the many new traffic calming measures introduced to your area which are undoubtedly a welcome development. Newbridge Mews, however, is in need of some development.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

We acknowledge the efforts of the special teams that you have in place to weed and tidy, and certainly in some areas their efforts are very noticeable. The planting of new trees along the roadsides in Sandymount is an excellent addition and adds colour to the area as do the many attractive gardens. We welcome the conservation of St.

Johns Church and the cleaning and restoration of the stone work has brightened up the building and indeed the entire area.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Sandymount is a lovely village with plenty to offer but we feel it did not look anywhere near its best on the day of adjudication. Unfortunately, our general impression this year was hampered by your serious litter control problem. While the residential areas and businesses in Sandymount looked well, the heart of the village - the Green - looked untidy and the area most visitors would come to, the Strand, was in need of much attention. We would encourage you to concentrate on this litter problem and the development of the Dodder Wildlife Park in time for next year's competition. We look forward to seeing improvements in these areas for next year.