

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	31	32
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	20
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>229</b>

## **Skerries, County Dublin**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your completed application form and comprehensive back up materials that were of great assistance on adjudication day. We congratulate you on work carried out this year and indeed on the difficult task of maintaining standards achieved in previous years. Skerries is a delight to visit and is certainly deserving of being ranked among the leaders in this category.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The completion of Skerries Mills has added greatly to the area and is a fine example of a successful restoration project. The streetscapes were presented to a very high standard with the Garda Station, Bank of Ireland and SuperValu worthy of particular mention. The thatched buildings in the town look well and add interest to the streetscape. The abundance of floral displays and colourful baskets greatly enhance the overall appearance of Skerries. However, plastic signage on amusement arcades detracts from the area. We look forward to development plans for the Clino Clinic being completed and we appreciate your comments in your application in this regard.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping throughout the town is to an exceptional standard. The flowerbeds under the bridge and at the monument are particularly attractive. We commend you on your tree-planting programme and look forward to this programme being extended in the future. There are some areas that would benefit from more attention e.g. the green space along the South Strand. Consideration could be given to developing beds with indigenous coastal plants, wild flowers etc.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The seafront and beach areas were well presented on adjudication day. As the Tide was out in the harbour area, it was noted that there were various items dumped which were quite unsightly e.g. broken plastic chair, wheelbarrow, plastic items etc. This could be a clean up project in the future. The restored pond project at Skerries Mills is an added enhancement to the wildlife in the town and a special place for the community to visit and observe wildlife in their natural habitat.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is exceptional throughout the town. Indeed, at the time of adjudication, litter collectors were at work filling black sacks! The beach area was litter free as were all the main streets. It was noted however that litter was in evidence in some back streets/lanes and near the harbour area. However, overall efforts in this area are to be commended.

## **TIDINESS**

In general, the level of tidiness throughout Skerries was to a high standard. The absence of graffiti is of particular note, however, it is disappointing that the graffiti on the building behind the train station mentioned in last year's report is still in existence. The green areas around the Head could have a tidier appearance i.e. overgrown grass, some weeds.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

In general, the residential areas are presented to a very high standard reflecting the commitment and sense of shared responsibility of the community. However there were some areas in need of attention, e.g. The Kybe where verges were overgrown, Shenick road weeds at base of walls, trees. The verges beside the Holmpatrick Shopping Centre were very overgrown. Encourage replacement of plastic signs at shops within residential areas also. The residential areas along the Dublin Road e.g. Townparks were presented to an excellent standard and are well maintained.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Once again, the adjudicators were most impressed with the attractive floral displays on the approach from Lusk. The overall impression of these areas throughout Skerries is one of a very cared for town. The Rush/Loughshinney approach could benefit from more attention, some verges are overgrown etc. Again, the Hoar's Rock area would benefit from further attention. We look forward to the completion of the undergrounding of overhead wires that are currently detracting from the streetscape.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There can be no doubt that your committee has succeeded in establishing a well organised, dedicated team who have had many achievements over the years. Maintaining standards is a considerable challenge that your committee is managing well and which is reflected in this year's marks. Skerries is well presented and the committee have displayed imaginative ideas in overcoming possible eyesores. Continued support from the local authority, local business and the community will help the committee to make further achievements next year.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/99)**

Congratulations on a magnificent achievement as regards the development of the Windmill Project and associated Craft Shop, Tea Rooms and Theme Park. This really is a wonderful interpretation of your heritage from which not only the local community but also the larger national and international community can benefit. Well done! It is particularly satisfying to note that you have incorporated wildlife conservation into this wonderful development also. We note, with interest, the pond, the reed beds and other wildlife features of this initiative. Everyone concerned really is to be congratulated. The

Sunday Musical Mornings and the Bakery Course are further aspects of this initiative which are to be greatly admired and treasured. Litter control was excellent on the occasion of our second adjudication. There was a very small outbreak of litter along the sea wall leading to the harbour. There were also a few cans in the small stream in the Theme Park. These could only be seen when standing on the small foot bridge. Again, this was not a serious problem but it is a pity that they were there. Your work programme is commendable, we look forward to its completion. The main streets of the town looked particularly well and, of course, as the first adjudicator has mentioned, flower displays are quite breathtaking. We look forward to the ducting of service cables in the town centre and, of course, we look forward to many repeat visits to Skerries. Many of the problems noted during our first visit, e.g. weedy kerbs in the Kybe and at other locations had been rectified in time for second adjudication. Stretches of footpath along the main street need to be resurfaced, there appears to be plenty of scope for the redesign of the main street. In the short term as an interim measure, car parking should be restricted to side to the kerb rather than nose to kerb. (It is currently nose to kerb on one side of the street and side to kerb on the other). This will give a less congested appearance to the main street.