

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TEMPLE BAR**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	20	19
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16	16
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	175	168

Temple Bar, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed report outlining all your recent developments and initiatives, along with your future proposals. We would ask you to submit a more up to date map next year showing the various residential developments by name. We were delighted to hear about the recent TASCQ initiative - this kind of partnership will undoubtedly assist your efforts greatly. Your close co-operation with both the statutory bodies and private enterprises is having a positive impact on the ever-developing Temple Bar area. The Area Action Plan gives direction to your efforts and is a good method by which results can be measured.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

We appreciate that there is still a huge amount of development and construction still ongoing within Temple bar, which makes it difficult for these areas to be presented at their best. However, we were delighted to see nicely painted, well-maintained and colourful buildings in other areas. The Oliver St. John Gogarty and the Auld Dubliner brighten up either side of Anglesea Street and restaurants such as Wollenskys, Milano, the Temple Bar Pharmacy and The Shack Restaurant add great colour to the streetscape. Hotels such as Bewley's and the Temple Bar Hotel had made great efforts with hanging baskets displayed out front. However, Internet House on Fleet Street was very drab and dreary and Bruno's and Central Percs are in need of a repaint. Where construction is occurring we would suggest erecting more concealing, colourful and informative hoarding around the site which would hide any graffiti and broken windows that are particularly unsightly and detract from the nicer buildings in the area, eg. the development of Bad Bob's and the Project Arts Theatre. Also, keep watch of the number of sandwich boards being displayed outside premises as too many tend to detract from attractive shopfronts.

LANDSCAPING

Greening Temple Bar is a wonderful and progressive initiative within your urban landscape. Developing the available open spaces and courtyards and introducing flower boxes and hanging baskets to rooftops and window sills has added great colour to the whole area and generally improved the overall aesthetic look of Temple Bar. The trees planted in Temple Bar Square in recent months have brightened up this fantastic open-air entertainment amenity and residential landscaping of Smock Alley and Crampton Court are undoubtedly excellent projects - unfortunately we could not gain access on the day of adjudication to see the results first hand. Do watch out for rubbish being deposited in lower level flower boxes as this totally detracts from the intended objective, eg. outside Temple Bar Properties. We look forward to seeing the introduction of the floral spectacular planned by Greening Temple Bar in months to come.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We were happy to hear about the installation of bird boxes into the community gardens. This should encourage more wildlife to those

areas and improve the overall urban impression one associates with the Temple Bar area. Perhaps you might also consider projects for next year that are more visible and accessible to the general public.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter within the Temple Bar is undoubtedly an ongoing problem, given the steady stream of visitors through the area. We recognise the difficulties you face in controlling this problem and acknowledge your initiatives and considerable achievements to date. Your litter awareness plan will hopefully reap long-term benefits but the immediate problem still exists. Much settled litter was evident under the blue port-a-cabins outside the Morgan Hotel and along the kerbs of some of the sideroads. We were disappointed to see a collection of beer cans outside Eden in Meeting House Square, although this was otherwise a remarkably clean area. The building works at the west end of Temple Bar seem to be aggravating the litter problem with a lot of unnecessary rubbish in evidence, eg. around Dublin's Viking Adventure. The Euro bins, while a very good idea, were in many cases overflowing, despite your excellent efforts in collecting three times a day. We also noticed quite a number of black plastic rubbish sacks deposited outside buildings in Temple Bar. Litter is one of Temple Bar's main problems and we wish you luck in your efforts to tackle this difficult issue.

TIDINESS

Temple Bar's environmental action plan is a much needed and welcome strategy to improve this cultural quarter. By addressing the issues of cleanliness and graffiti, among others, you are paving the way for a more pleasant, safe and attractive environment in which to live and visit. We commend your community awareness initiatives to involve the residents and public alike in the betterment of their area. Kerb management in general seems to be well in control but there was some weed growth that needed attention at some buildings, eg. Internet House. There was also quite a bit of graffiti in evidence at places such as the gates to Checkers Cabs and the buildings opposite Café Gertrude. Also, no efforts seem to have been made to clean up the huge amount of graffiti on Bedford Lane - is this intentional, and if so perhaps it should be signposted as a designated graffiti area? You have introduced the idea of recycling in the Temple Bar area to a certain extent but we feel that the potential for the future development of this project is considerable and should be given certain priority.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

We congratulate you on your residential garden project in Smock Alley and the landscaping and composting project in Crampton Court - good luck with the extension of these ideas to more of the residents in these particular complexes and throughout Temple Bar. The landscaping we saw looked very well in these areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Your new signage at Temple Bar Square looks very well and we noted with pleasure its bilingual nature. Other signage around Temple Bar was good. Look out for incidental litter around side streets and in particular, do not ignore the areas currently under construction or derelict spots simply because they are in the process of, or awaiting, redevelopment - efforts should be made to present these streets and

areas as well as you possibly can, given the circumstances.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall, we were very impressed with the great efforts made by Temple Bar Tidy Towns to improve the streetscape and environment. Some areas looked extremely well, but be vigilant about those other parts of Temple Bar that require your attention. You are undoubtedly on the right track with your projects and plans to date.