

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BLACKROCK**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	20
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	207

Blackrock, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Blackrock is fortunate in having such a comprehensive plan as the 'Blackrock Initiative' to work with. This excellent study gives focus to your work and will in years to come be an example of an urban pilot project for other towns and villages throughout Ireland. The comprehensive submission made by your committee was very helpful on the day of adjudication and allowed us to identify the new initiatives undertaken this year. It may be helpful, however, at this stage to try to involve more sections of the community in your work as there are many factors working against you in achieving your ultimate goal.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It was excellent to see the successful completion of many of the building projects identified as problem areas in last year's report. Both Blackrock and the Frascati Shopping Centres looked very well as did many of the shops and restaurants along the Main Street. We especially noted premises such as Insomnia, Café Java, Alamo, O'Rourke's, Conways and The Missing Swan. The Main Street itself was very pleasant with the addition of some new hanging flower baskets and trees. Some of the buildings on the side roads such as Peter Linden's and Ristorante da Roberto were well maintained showing that your focus is village wide and not just on the Main Street. The Health Centre on George's Avenue is in need of a repaint. The Wicked Wolf while looking very well from the Main Street had a lot of rubbish outside it at the back of the building. Particular praise is due to the Ulster Bank for the sensitive refit and conservation of a lovely building. There was a marked improvement in the Senior College and you are to be congratulated for this. The European Mazda Centre looked very well and provides an excellent entrance to the village as does the well maintained Maxwell Motors. The Garda Station and TSB Bank were very well maintained and it was great to see the improvement with AIG Europe.

LANDSCAPING

Blackrock Park was somewhat of a disappointment on the day of adjudication. Graffiti and litter take significantly from what is otherwise a superb public area. There was much graffiti in evidence on the toilets at the entrance, the chalet building, the children's play area and on seats in the park. There was also an area at the entrance in need of planting which took from the entrance to the park. The welcome sign was also knocked down. It is particularly disappointing to see such vandalism when it is obvious that both you and the Local Authority invested much time, effort and money in

the park during the year. You might consider painting the bandstand in the coming year. However, the flowers at the junction of Rock Road /Frascati Road and Carysfort Avenue were delightful and present a pleasing entrance to your area. There was also a beautiful landscaped area with wonderful appropriate shrubbery at the entrance to the Blackrock Shopping Centre. The new landscaped area and the addition of benches and flower pots looked great at the entrance to the DART Car Park and we witnessed many locals taking advantage of this new facility which has remained graffiti free. The planted area at the entrance to the station itself also looked very well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Blackrock Park is a wonderful natural amenity but as mentioned in last year's report we would like to see an environment programme within your overall plan for next year to maintain this. It was however disappointing to see that the dumping in the stream at the end of the park had continued since the last adjudication and indeed had deteriorated.

LITTER CONTROL

The Supervalu car park was a credit to them and we were delighted to see the continual tidying of the car park during the adjudication. Unfortunately there was a lot of litter along the kerbs on George's Avenue. Obviously the addition of a new bin has helped this area but continual vigilance is needed. There was also a lot of rubbish in DART Car Park behind The Wicked Wolf and HOK despite efforts to provide more bins. You might also consider placing a bin directly outside the entrance to the DART as litter had gathered at the entrance. A bin is also necessary outside Oddbins as this was a litter blackspot on the day of adjudication. The bins outside the Senior College and Temple House have certainly proved useful. The residential areas in most cases are virtually litter free and the residents associations are to be commended for this.

TIDINESS

The graffiti problem has certainly deteriorated since last year and presents you with many challenges for next year's competition. There was a lot of graffiti evident on the new bus shelter in the DART car park and behind the car park there was an abandoned bicycle and litter thrown in the corner. It is hoped that the railings in the DART car park will be painted as part of the continuous redevelopment of the station. There was also some graffiti evident on some postboxes around the village. The graffiti problem in Blackrock Park has been outlined above. Kerb control is needed on approach road to Blackrock close to Blackrock Park although we did notice an improvement in this area.

The excellent and well maintained recycling facility in the Frascati Shopping Centre is an example to other communities.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

George's Place is beautiful and a credit to the residents. Idrone Terrace was particularly well maintained and looked very well. Barclay Court, Wellenbrook, Maretimo House, Maretimo Gardens, Marentimo Villas and Newtown Villas were also very nice. Frascati Court looked fine but some painting is needed on this development. The gardens along George's Avenue looked good. It was excellent to see the improvements to St. Anne's Square in the past year.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general the approach roads were very well maintained. There are some beautiful flowers at the entrance to Newtown Avenue. Temple Road had very good kerb control. The shrubbery and sculpture on the Frascati Road adds to the entrance to the village. There was some kerbside litter in evidence at Sweetmans Avenue where the gardens looked great but the garage at the top still needs some attention. There was broken glass at the junction of Avoca Avenue and Frascati Road and also some litter.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

We are very impressed with the developments that have taken place during the year however we have noted a growing problem with graffiti and litter which hinders your progress. The continued focus on the needs of the disabled and your continued strategic focus in involving the youth are to be commended. Keep up the good work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/00)

Regrettably there were accumulations of litter again during second adjudication, most notably at one bus stop on the main street and in the railway station car park where weeds were also prevalent. Any vandalised trees such as one near Bank of Ireland ought to be replaced immediately. It was pleasing to note the general air of confidence about Blackrock which certainly seemed absent a number of years ago. To be commended is the generally high standard of landscaping, nowadays part and parcel of significant new building developments. Do not forget the back lanes and yards behind the main street and elsewhere - anywhere visible from the public domain is likely to be scrutinised by the adjudicators. Apart from being marred by litter most of the amenity open spaces were exceptionally well presented.

