

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FINGLAS**  
County : **DUBLIN**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	20	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>180</b>

## **Finglas, County Dublin**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

As mentioned in last year's report a three to five year plan would be in order so that the Finglas Tidy Towns Committee can structure their plans for the existing village. The proposals for the town centre looked to be exciting and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing this progress in years to come. You would appear to have a good relationship with local organisations and the local business community. Your plans for making a video in order to foster community awareness of the environment is a worthwhile one.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Both commercial and public premises throughout the village generally looked quite well on adjudication day. However, don't neglect gable walls when considering presentation of buildings – Superquinn looked quite grey and in need of cheering up before next year's competition and a black painted building stepping out from the street line on Main Street appeared quite flaky. The Shamrock Lodge looked very fresh in a pale yellow colour however the large tower at the corner of Main Street and the Seamus Ennis Road appeared quite flaky. Perhaps the plastic signs at the parapet of the Drogheda Mall could be replaced with more sympathetic signage such as raised metal lettering or timber signs. The credit union and grounds were well maintained, as was the church. St. Canices' girls and boys national schools looked fine but perhaps further landscaping projects could be considered in order to soften their presentation somewhat. The banks looked fine as did the Health Centre – however, the adjacent sheds were badly in need of painting.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is scope for further development in this area both in the private and public areas where a mixture of hard and soft landscaping could vastly improve some areas that looked quite bare. The construction company on the Dublin side of the village had some very bare areas surrounding it which would greatly benefit from the tree planting etc. A similar story is evident at the Drogheda Mall where the street line could be defined by the planting of trees in between the car parking spaces. The hanging baskets at the perimeter of the car park of the main centre were admired, as were the planted tubs and relatively new trees at the monument. A wealth of new trees was evident throughout the village but perhaps more emphasis could be put on developing further items of street furniture such as lamp standards, seats etc.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This section of the application was not completed although you made reference to the Tolka Valley Eco Project. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator ENFO, Conservation Volunteers Ireland could give you some ideas on further developing this aspect of the competition- also refer to your Tidy Towns Handbook.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard in this category of the competition was very low and litter control was a severe problem on the day. Quite a lot of litter was evident along the Glasnevin / Dublin Road – bottles and papers etc. in particular, by the bus stop, at the traffic lights, adjacent to Burger King, and at the flyover. More litter was evident along Main Street, in particular outside the funeral home, by the church, outside the post office, along the Poppintree Mall and blowing around outside the Bank of Ireland by the bollards on a blustery adjudication day.

## **TIDINESS**

The village generally looked neat and ordered on adjudication day. However, there were some problem areas. The adjudicator was pleased to note the planning application notice at the derelict cottage on the corner of North Street beside the Garda Station. However, the Calor gas canisters at the green space opposite were a puzzle and looked quite unfortunate. Graffiti was a problem throughout the village. The boundary wall at the car park opposite the Tavern Lounge looked badly in need of painting. The archway beside the Law Centre was quite weedy and other areas in need of weed control have been noted elsewhere in this report. Do try to discourage the practice of fly posting.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Houses and estates throughout the village were generally well maintained. The relatively new brick housing estate on the Dublin Road was admired as were the quite quaint semi detached houses beyond the Health Clinic. However, some boundary walls were in need of attention and weeding was necessary at the curb sides. Some very attractive houses on the cul-de-sac beyond the Garda Station were admired and generally well maintained even extending to the grass verges to the front. However, weeding was also necessary to some curbs along this road. The houses in Brookville Estate were quite fresh and the landscaped tree lined entrance area was admired. The attractive cottages on George's Road were admired.

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

As mentioned previously there was a lot of litter along Main

Street and some of the buildings were in need of attention. The trees along the Glasnevin / Dublin Road were admired however, the verges appeared to be quite weedy and grass had yet to be sown in this area which would make a welcome improvement. Major roadworks were in progress on the Seamus Ennis Road on adjudication day. In terms of street furniture phone boxes were quite new and well maintained but, as previously mentioned, perhaps you could consider the use of more street furniture such as lamp standards and benches. The archway beside the Law Centre, appeared quite weedy- do remember not to neglect these back areas.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Finglas is a village with a wealth of cultural and historical significance. The old abbey to the far side of the main road was admired. As previously mentioned perhaps drafting an overall plan of action for your committee would be a good idea before next year's competition.