

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **HOWTH**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	28
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196	188

Howth, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your completed application form and informative enclosures. Your commitment is evidenced through your detailed report that displays well thought out and realistic action plans. Howth's inclusion in the Sempa project is of major importance for your future success. Awareness generation is the key for all successful towns and you are to be commended on your efforts through newsletters, schools etc in this area. Inclusion and support from all sectors of the community is critical to achieving meaningful results.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Howth has a wealth of cultural heritage. There is a good architectural mix of the old and new and all presented to a high standard. The graffiti on the bus shelter at Harbour Road therefore stands out so much more. There are a few business premises that require repainting in keeping with the standards of the majority. The floodlighting of the Church is a wonderful feature and if possible further floodlighting of heritage properties should be encouraged. Deerpark and Howth Castle were litter free and well presented. The Bloody Stream was well presented with a colourful display of flowers; there was some incidental litter in the front areas. The pier areas were generally well presented however there are some buildings that would benefit from some attention. The overall effect is greatly enhanced when businesses extend their efforts to include outside their premises.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping all along Harbour Road is most attractive and is a welcome splash of colour in the town. Regretfully, the litter in this area seriously effects this impact. The committee is to be commended on the new landscaping at the rear of St. Peter's Terrace and this project has been nominated for an award in this category. There are some areas in Howth that would benefit from some landscaping, for example along Balcadden Road near the Tower.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Howth is very well positioned to gain an increase in marks in this section. It enjoys a host of natural amenities, which, due to its accessibility from the city, are a unique attraction

in a European Capital. However, much can be done to improve the information available for the visitor regarding the variety of wildlife and natural flora and fauna of the area. Information panels are required to highlight the riches of Howth Head, the variety of fish, birds etc in the pier area. This would truly bring the area alive for day-trippers and visitors and of course for the community of Howth.

LITTER CONTROL

Despite obvious efforts by the committee, litter control is a serious problem in the Howth area. The main areas where it was at its worst was along the green spaces at Harbour Road (this was being cleaned up at the time of adjudication) and along the pier. Much of the litter appeared to be from the previous evening. Perhaps a more proactive approach from the businesses where the litter is generated from could be considered. Day-trippers appear to cause much of the litter and this is where litter wardens could be most effective. There were plastic bags left beside the recycling units, perhaps a more regular collection is required to alleviate this problem.

TIDINESS

The layout of the town is one that gives an overall appearance of charm and tidiness. If the litter problem and incidental cases of graffiti were overcome the impression of tidiness would be so much greater. It is difficult to maintain a very 'tidy' appearance in a working pier area however some effort could be made which could be very effective. Attention to details such as repainting walls, weed free kerbs, verges and swept footpaths contribute to a neat well-kept appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of presentation of residential areas is very high which is reflected in your marks in this category. The 'Howth looking good' competition is a welcome initiative as not only does it raise and maintain standards but it also creates pride in the area which then helps in areas of litter control and tidiness. Extending efforts to outside the garden walls assists greatly in raising the overall impression of a cared for and tidy area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads into Howth are clean, well laid out with good signposting. The new traffic calming measures should improve the traffic situation. There was some incidental litter in some back lanes. We note your efforts to cut back shrubbery in some back lanes, which is required on an annual basis. The derelict old stone building at the Summit car park should be demolished or upgraded in some way. It

detracts from an otherwise scenic area. The area at Balscadden Road near the Tower requires attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Howth is an attractive and unique town with so much to offer. Howth is probably the envy of many Tidy Towns committees, as you will have such valuable research information and support available to you as a result of your involvement in the Sempa Project. The committee and the community groups have done much work generally and regretfully perhaps the marks should be higher for all the effort made. However, it seems that your efforts in the area of litter control have been effective for the local community however the issue is the day-trippers and nightlife. The Sempa project may have some suggestions in this area based on other towns' experiences. Be sure to make the most of information available and keep up the good work. Howth has the potential to achieve awards.