

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SANDYMOUNT**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	31
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	19	18
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	185

Sandymount, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and maps which were most helpful on adjudication day. As stated in last year's report, it is important to formulate a three to five year work programme. This document needs only to be two or three pages long, outlining your plans for the village and putting a timescale against these achievements. It will help you see your progress as the years proceed as well as being of great benefit for adjudication purposes.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings throughout the village looked extremely well on the day. Much construction work is underway – on the green, at the old MS Society headquarters, further along the green, on Sandymount Road beside the fish shop and at CPI on Sandymount Avenue. A planning application was noted at China Town on Seafort Avenue. This is a most welcome development after the long period in which this building has been empty. Both pubs, O'Reilly's and Ryan's were quite fresh. Sandymount Pharmacy looked as charming as ever. Do remove the few remaining plastic projecting signs in the village centre and replace them with ones of a more sympathetic variety. All the churches of the village looked well cared for on the day – the Methodist and Presbyterian on the Green, the neo-Romanesque St John's and the Star of the Sea. Browne's was painted a deep red colour and looked most welcoming in the sunshine with its attractive awnings. However, the newsagent's adjacent still appears to be empty. Jaz hairdressers had also been freshly painted as had Red Spot dry cleaners in an appropriate bright red colour. Aura is a welcome addition to the street with its simple shop front and attractive window boxes at the upper level. The unusual extension to the Martello Tower has always been admired by this adjudicator.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaped areas looked well on the day. The hanging baskets of petunias to Ryan's were greatly admired as was the attractive display of roses and hanging baskets either side of the door to St. Martin's Guest House on the Green. The solicitors and physiotherapy clinic had a colourful display of geraniums and neatly cut grass to its front garden. The landscaping to the tax office with its bronze sculpture, as mentioned in last year's report, also looked well. And the attractively landscaped (by CPI) Mount Tabor was admired. The newly planted beds in the Green had yet to mature on adjudication day. The promenade area with its new lamp standards looked well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In relation to the Dodder Wildlife Park, do try to ensure that a balance is achieved between what appears to be neglect and achieving a natural presentation. There would appear to be a need for further landscaping in this locality as at the moment it just looks weedy, overgrown and littered. Dumping was evident to the river (although the ducks seemed happy!) This could be a very pleasant place to sit and contemplate nature – do try to get the local school children involved, this could take the form of an information board outlining areas of wildlife interest in the locality and perhaps a wild flower garden. This park was in slightly better condition to the Lansdowne Road side of the river.

LITTER CONTROL

Although this category of the competition seemed to have improved from last year, there were a number of problem areas. These seemed to be those of major activity and visitors, i.e. the Green and the promenade by the Strand – quite a large amount of litter was evident between the rocks and behind the stone wall surround of the car park to the latter. Perhaps more litter bins would be in order to the former and those that are there could be emptied more regularly. A couple of papers were evident along Main Street in between the parked cars. And perhaps the recycling bins at Lansdowne Road be emptied more regularly as plastic bags had been left at the bases of these receptacles.

TIDINESS

A nasty stain was evident at the corner of the Spar building. An overgrown laneway on Dromard Terrace leading to a back garden looked unfortunate. Do try to ensure that goods displayed on the pavement don't disrupt pedestrian traffic. Graffiti was a problem in a number of areas: – to a ramp sign on Park Avenue: to the side wall by the ESB sub-station at Radcliffe Hall: to the recycling receptacles at the beach car park and to the boundary wall of a house with a magnificent garden filled with lillies on Park Avenue.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses within the village centre and along approach roads were generally in good condition on the day. The creeper clad brick houses of Seafort Avenue were admired. The proud majestic tree lined avenues of Park and Sydney Parade looked magnificent as ever as did St. John's Road. The castellated neo-gothic houses at the Green, as always, looked magnificent with their attractive courtyards filled with greenery on a sunny day. A single boundary wall on the Green looked quite grubby adjacent to the stained road nameplate. An attractive rose garden on Marine Drive was admired as was the modern house at Gilford Court with its interesting combination of brick and plasterwork.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads and the roads within the village centre generally looked well cared for on the day. Roadworks were in progress at Seafort Avenue. The attractive mature overhanging trees of Sandymount Road cast a magnificent dappled light on a sunny adjudication day. The dishing of pavements for the disabled in the village centre was noted and is to be commended. Your involvement with Slí na Sláinte is to your credit. The new trees to the edge of Sean Moore Park are maturing nicely.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The attractive seaside Sandymount still manages to maintain its village charm despite its location so close to the city.