

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SHANKILL**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	197

Shankill, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form and map of the Shankill area. It is good to see your efforts continuing again this year and we can appreciate your difficulties with the development of the area and increase in the population. Your co-operation with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, the schools, some of the local businesses and the residents is worthwhile and necessary and should be further developed in the future in order to bring about more change and be able to extend the designated boundaries for Shankill Tidy Towns next year. We hope to see a 3-5 year development plan for the village and surrounds compiled in the near future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

You have developed the streetscape in Shankill very nicely and the overall impression is one of a well presented and pleasant village. Seaview Service station at the Dublin end of the village looks much improved this year with the green area to the left looking remarkably better. Great efforts have obviously been made by a certain row of adjoining shops, i.e. Mickey Byrne's pub, Grace's Garden Chinese Restaurant, Cheers Off Licence and Bradys of Shankill, which all looked very well kept and brightly presented. It would be nice to see such efforts put into some of the other businesses on the main street. Some kerb maintenance is needed outside some of shopfronts on main streetscape such as Albany Home Specialists and Xtra Vision. The church has maintained its high standard and Corbawn Pub in the SuperValu Centre looked well. Shanganagh Marble and Stone Centre opposite the cemetery looked very well, an attractive building visible from the roadside. Again, it would be nice to see the shopping centre opposite Foxes Grove with Bojangles Hair Salon and Choices Community Employment Action Project upgraded. It was nice to see the Sli na Slainte signs around the town but the health centre sign is still falling down on the lower road off the main Shankill road and should be fixed. The lowered footpaths on the main street for disabled access are good and more inclusive environment elements should be developed in the village in the future. Liaisons with the National Rehabilitation Board and any local access groups in this regard should be encouraged. The lampposts and hanging baskets on the main street serve to brighten up the road and the wooden flower planters are very attractive.

LANDSCAPING

There is some lovely landscaping around Shankill in parts and it would be wonderful to have local businesses sponsor

future developments in this area. Your aim to plant 2000 trees by this year is admirable and we were delighted to hear that you now have a designated site. It was a real accomplishment for the local schoolchildren to be awarded an environmental achievement award, the Green Flag for the work they have carried out. The grounds around SuperValu look well maintained for the most part with nicely planted trees, as did the Church boundaries and hedges. Scoil Naomh Anna on the Stonebridge Road is also nicely landscaped, with lovely green areas. Shanganagh Castle has some very pretty planting and flowerbeds which are evident from the roadside, and the roundabout heading into the village looked well. Shanganagh Cemetery has some lovely landscaping – it is just a shame that the litter problem here detracts from it. At the back of Castle Farms (opp Houses 41-49) there is a large derelict grassy area with old pipes and wood and rubbish collecting which needs attention and it would be nice to see some landscaping work carried out around the car park at Choices Community Employment Action Project, which would make it more visibly attractive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Hedgerows and bushes on roads and open spaces in Shankill looked well and should encourage wildlife. As outlined previously, we would recommend compiling a specific environmental plan for your area in the immediate future to assist in the conservation and development of natural amenities and wildlife areas in Shankill. This is ever more important given that Shankill is developing and expanding at such a rate.

LITTER CONTROL

It is good to hear that your system of giving particular people responsibility for certain areas seems to be working. Involvement with school children to create awareness and participation at a young age is also very important. You do have a difficult problem to deal with in Shankill and certain areas are bigger blackspots than others. The main street looked litter free for most part from the Dublin and Bray approach roads but incidental litter could be seen as you get closer to the main centre. Litter seems to collect around the bus shelters and bus stops, particularly on main road so bins should be installed here where absent at present. A couple of bins were starting to overflow near to Quinn's Stores and some extra bins could perhaps be installed around SuperValu car park, as opposed to just outside the shops there, in order to alleviate the problem that exists here. Black plastic litter bags were placed outside a number of the houses in residential estates – the introduction of wheelie bins instead would be a much more hygienic and attractive option for households. Shanganagh Road, a traditional black spot for you with regard to litter,

has improved since last year but there was still quite a bit of rubbish strewn about in certain spots which needs to be watched. Also be careful of litter collecting behind the railings at the school on the Stonebridge Road and at the kerbs outside the school. Shanganagh Cemetery car park is the worst blackspot for you which is an awful shame as the entrance with the nice stone signs and landscaping are lovely. Incidental litter seems to gather at the kerbs but the car park itself had two abandoned and burnt out cars, along with a number of black litter bags dumped in the shrubbery at the back. There was also litter gathering in the corners of the car park. We can appreciate the number of people visiting the cemetery each day but the problem here needs to be addressed quickly before it gets even worse.

TIDINESS

It is a good idea to create an awareness amongst local residents about keeping your village tidy – be careful however with the distribution of leaflets that this does not simply compound the problem by creating litter. The main street and approach roads looked well with kerbs and hedges well kept and tidy for the most part. Just keep an eye on some residential areas in this regard. Graffiti still remains a problem for you and we were disappointed to see that the rear wall behind SuperValu still needs attention. The car park of SuperValu was also graffitied, as was the wall at the side of Quinn's Stores on the main street. Some was also to be seen on the wall opposite Castle Farms on the main road before your reach Shankill Caravan & Camping Park. Would also encourage the development of more recycling initiatives in Shankill as this will be an important issue for the future.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas in Shankill are something of which to be proud, great efforts have obviously been made here. Seaview Park and Seaview Lawns were delightful with virtually no litter, excellently maintained kerbs and grassy verges, nice gardens, lovely flower plantings and mature trees. It was a shame to see the black bags dumped outside the houses so wheelie bins would be a welcome addition. Hazelwood Estate was also very good overall and the stone sign at the entrance looks well - a little kerb maintenance is required. The new trees planted in Crinken Glen and Rathmichael Woods certainly enhance the areas and the houses themselves are very pretty. Some incidental litter and graffiti was seen in Rathmichael Woods so this needs to be controlled. Corbawn Lawn, Aubrey Grove and Foxes Grove all looked well. St. Annes' Park and Castle Farms do need a little attention however in relation to litter, graffiti and grass verges to bring them up to the high standard of the other residential areas. The new trees and shrubs planted in St. Anne's Park are welcome.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads from Dublin and Bray are both in very good condition, with hedges, bushes and kerbs all very well maintained. Some incidental litter was to be seen behind trees and bushes so you need to be vigilant about these areas too. The main street has obviously been given quite a lot of attention with the landscaping, flowers and lampposts and it really does impress. On Shrewsbury Road the sign has been graffitied and needs attention and Shanganagh Road has improved but still needs work in relation to the litter issue. The signpost for the DART station here is falling down and should be re-erected.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Shankill has a lot of potential, as is obvious from efforts and developments made to date. We would encourage you to compile definite development plans for the different aspects that need attention as this will give you something on which to focus your efforts and with which to measure your achievements in the future. We wish you all the best with the development of the Peace Park and with the funding for same.