

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **SKERRIES**  
County : **DUBLIN**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	35	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>232</b>

## **Skerries, County Dublin**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks for your most comprehensive work programme which made extremely interesting reading. Your illustrated pedestrian trail is an excellent idea presenting as it does the many different aspects of the town from that of wildlife to those of a cultural and historical nature. Skerries Tidy Towns Committee is indeed a fine example to others around the country given its energetic and dedicated nature. The town displays great community spirit and local pride. The windmills are a splendid restoration and add greatly to the amenity value of the town.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Most commercial and public premises in the town looked well cared for on adjudication day. The Garda Station was very fresh as was the post office. The harbour area generally looked extremely fresh – of particular note was the Waterfront painted in blue. However, the timber projecting window to Shennanigan's looked to be in bad condition. The Pier shop at the end of the harbour looked most fresh. The Church of Ireland and its grounds on Mill Lane looked well maintained and Neelon's looked very fresh in red on Church Street. The fine stone Methodist Church was simply presented as ever. And the wonderful display of hanging baskets to Lady Belle were greatly admired. The First Stop Convenience Store looked quite bright on Balbriggan Street and the buildings along Thomas Hands Street looked fine. O'Leary's Thatched Cottage Bed & Breakfast looked quite quaint. There are still a number of curved canopies and plastic signs – particularly at the amusements on South Strand which should be discouraged and replaced with ones of a more traditional variety. Wing's Garden on South Strand will need a fresh coat of paint before next year's competition and the side/rear area to the Climo Clinic, as you have noted yourselves, looks quite unfortunate. The railway station will need painting before next year's competition as it looked quite flaky.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is the category of the competition in which Skerries has always excelled. The graveyard on Mill Lane looked well maintained and the new trees to the car park of the magnificent amenity area at the Mills are coming along nicely. The attractive floral display to the roundabout on the Dublin Road was admired as indeed were the green banks of grassy verges leading up the houses on the Dublin Road which were beautifully maintained. There is an attractive landscaped area between the railway station and the town centre on the Dublin Road. The magnificent displays of deep red geraniums in

timber tubs on the Holmpatrick at its junction with Strand Street and Church Street looked most attractive.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This is a category of the competition in which Skerries is most fortunate in its magnificent seaside location. Your efforts throughout the town and surroundings in this regard are noted and commended. The inclusion of a reed bed in the town park at the windmills is a marvellous idea, particularly as this is an area accessible to all. Your efforts in relation to the roseate terns at Rockabill are to be especially commended. A board indicating the wildlife of the area was noted at South Strand.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control on the day was not as good as this adjudicator has experienced in Skerries in previous years. Quite a lot was noted along the Balbriggan Road and along Balbriggan Street. Papers and cans were evident to the public park as one walked up to the mills from Mill Lane, around the tin shed at the railway station car park and quite a lot was evident outside Keen's Bus Bar and along Strand Street. This was put down to a busy weekend of visitors to the town and therefore marks were not deducted in this regard. Hopefully the situation will have improved by second adjudication.

## **TIDINESS**

The centre of the town looked quite neat and ordered on adjudication day. However, a wall and cottage were in need of whitewashing on Balbriggan Street and a charming stepped gabled building on the same street was in need of some painting. The derelict properties which have been painted up – inclusive of the boards to the windows were noted and are a good way of tackling this problem in the short term. The harbour area was fine, however, a shed with untidily maintained goods yard quite evidently on display beside the road to the Red Island car park looked most unfortunate and will need to be freshly painted up before next year's competition. A warehouse type building on the square also looked quite neglected.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Some charming new cottages on the seaside of the Balbriggan Road were greatly admired. The filled tubs at the entrance to Sherlock Park looked marvellous. However, some boundary walls in this area were in need of painting. The attractive mature gardens to Sherlock Terrace looked magnificent. At Hillside Gardens the floral displays in the grass verges at the entrance area were admired. Some weeding is necessary to curbsides at St. Patrick's Close

leading up to the railway station. Towns Park Estate was extremely well landscaped. Indeed all of the estates to the "suburbs" of the town looked well cared for and houses in the centre of the town were also presented to a high standard.

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

Along the Balbriggan Road the proliferation of new housing estates is causing great disruption and gives an unfortunate impression to the visitor arriving into the town from this approach, as there are a number of broken down walls and overgrowth. This entry to the town presents a fabulous view to the harbour nestling around the waters edge. Wild poppies created a colourful diversion as one entered from this direction and the granite nameplate announcing one's entry to the town is most welcoming. The other approaches to the town were maintained to their normal high standard. In terms of signage the directional signs at the junction of Balbriggan Street and Thomas Hand Street were grubby. The main streets of the town looked well cared for- the unfortunate building to the square has previously been noted.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The town of Skerries looked reasonably well cared for on adjudication day. As previously noted it is a town which shows immense community spirit and local pride in its wonderful location.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/00)**

The approach from Lusk was as beautiful as ever. It is suggested that a line of trees might be planted on the Rush approach in front of a long concrete block wall. While the Balbriggan Road obviously has its attractive sea views it lacked consistency in terms of maintenance. It was a pleasure to note that the railway station had been painted since the first adjudication. Most residential areas were well presented with admirable expansive green areas; any drab walls should either be painted or planted over. Litter was generally not a problem apart from accumulations in some generally neglected areas. The main commercial streets looked by and large fine but some of the older meandering back streets suffered somewhat from the odd shabby building and poor sheds. The poor road surfacing in much of the town created a negative impression. The most significant area which needs radical action has been referred to in past years - this is South Strand; an action plan for the area should be drawn up. It is quite clear that numerous business people in this area have no interest in Tidy Towns. The nearby harbour on the other hand is much more effective in design and maintenance terms.