

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TEMPLE BAR**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	21	20
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	16
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	184	175

Temple Bar, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Temple Bar Tidy Towns Committee would appear to have garnered a high level of support with the local community – both local resident and commercial groups. Your relationship with the local authority and relevant statutory bodies is also very impressive. Your comprehensive submission in relation to the various aspects of presentation was both very thorough and most interesting. The twice yearly public forum is an excellent idea as indeed is the noise and waste working group, given that these two latter problems are those from which Temple Bar particularly suffers. The TASCQ Initiative is a marvellous and positive development particularly given the nature of Temple Bar as a hive of social activity attracting innumerable associated problems. Your recently appointed committee is indeed welcome to the competition, good luck with your future efforts.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings in the area looked well cared for on adjudication day. Temple Bar is unusual in terms of its combination of traditional urban buildings and modern dynamic ones. Milano's is an attractive modern front with its polished granite at ground floor and shining metal frames to its shop windows. The old Bad Bob's site appears to have a bright yellow colour in store for its façade to complement the recently opened Project Art Centre in its strong blue colour. This latter is a fine strong modern addition to the area with its advertising boards integrated into its shop front screen and also the integration of the original old warehouse building which housed the centre. The metal of the National Photographic Archives building sparkled magnificently in the afternoon sunshine on adjudication day. The lovely old gothic Dolphin Hotel with its marvellous stone masonry looked well as did the Front Lounge with its deep overhanging awnings. The detailing of the lead feature above the archway from Meeting House Square to Eustace Street is quite attractive. The tall upper windows / large glazed screens to the Art House were wide open on the warm summer's day. One or two buildings were in need of some attention, i.e. the old building opposite the Oliver St. John Gogarty on Fleet Street could be painted and some of the plasterwork around window and door opes was in bad condition. The signage to the Joy of Coffee appeared to be quite stained and the surround to the large screen opening onto Meeting House Square from the Gallery of Photography / IFC appeared to be perished and falling out.

LANDSCAPING

The adjudicator was pleased to hear of your plans in relation

to the planting project in Crowe Street and indeed the overall Greening of Temple Bar Scheme. Handle's public gardens on Fishamble Street should be a fine asset to the area. Temple Bar Square is a fine example of urban hard landscaping, its new trees are coming along nicely. Indeed this and Meeting House Square were a hive of activity on the day – the latter with its attractive street furniture such as the moveable seating – new trees were also in evidence here. The urban garden beside City Hall, with its pink rose beds and fine statuary was well maintained. Commercial premises along streets contributed by the means of window boxes. Of particular note were those to the Auld Dubliner and Gallagher's Boxty House. However, in contrast window boxes displaying dead planting were evident to the building adjacent to the latter.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your initiatives in this regard are to be commended. The bird boxes throughout the area are a charming idea and there is evidence of much planting in order to attract this form of wildlife. The further development of the West end of Temple Bar in relation to residential gardens is indeed eagerly anticipated. The Greening of Temple Bar Scheme is indeed a positive one.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good given the busy nature of Temple Bar in its urban location. Some papers were evident on Sycamore Street, at Temple Bar Square, along the curved street and at Temple Lane South. However, having said this there was evidence of ongoing work cleaning up Meeting House Square on the day. The Euro bins are an excellent idea, however, they did tend to give Sycamore Street a rather messy appearance on the day as they were not tucked discreetly out of the way.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category of the competition was also quite good. However, graffiti was a problem in a couple of locations such as at Crown Alley and to the side of Elephant & Castle. The signage to Auriga's on Temple Bar Square was broken and should be replaced. Do try to discourage the practice of messy, tatty advertising hoardings particularly at construction sites. The empty site at the corner of Fownes Street diagonally opposite Fitzer's on Temple Bar Square gives a rather "gap toothed" appearance the overall street fabric.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your scheme for discount paint for house holders is an excellent idea. The many apartments add an attractive and welcome all-day life back into the inner city which is quite

evident on a ramble through the area. It brings this life to the upper storeys of buildings as well as at street level. The residential area of the West end of Temple Bar is progressing nicely.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Temple Bar is filled with good modern street furniture. Of special note being the metal bollards and the wheeled seating at Meeting House Square. The lighting to Temple Bar Square and its modern metal bollards were also admired. The area was a hive of activity on the day. It was noted that road works were in progress on Fleet Street. Despite this both pedestrian and vehicular approaches to the area were generally in good condition. The street signage of the area is consistent and extremely well designed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Cultural Quarter of Temple Bar is a magnificent asset to the city of Dublin, injecting as it does new life back into the inner city. Care must be taken to ensure that the high standards of development and maintenance are continued over the years.