

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BLACKROCK**  
County : **DUBLIN**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>218</b>

## **Blackrock, County Dublin**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Blackrock is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The Committee did not submit a development plan or a work programme, you could do this for next year's competition, it can help you to achieve more marks and it can also act as a co-ordinating device for the overall development of Blackrock. Try to include a map also. It is a pity to note that you do not get very much support from the local community other than the Blackrock Chamber of Commerce. This problem would be worth addressing. Well done on your liaison with the Environment Department of Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown. Blackrock Park is a wonderful amenity, well done. It not only provides recreational amenity facilities but is also high in visual amenity.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

'The Missing Swan' premises is presented to an excellent standard, well done! This is really important as it occupies an important corner site in the village. The 'Camelot Hair Studio' looks well also. The 'Central Café' sign is outdated and could be replaced by something more visually pleasing. It is hoped that the 'Bennett' premises will have its traditional features retained upon refurbishment. There are some very impressive buildings on Maretimo Road / The Main Street, including the church and the old Carnegie Free Library building (Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council Offices). Hopefully the tricolour door of the old Methodist Church will be reinstated to its original, now that the World Cup fever is over. 'Jack O'Rourke's' premises looks exceptionally well (public house) as does the 'EBS' premises. 'Brock Art Gallery' needs to be refurbished to its roadside façade.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Congratulations to the park workers, the standard of presentation is excellent. The mature shrubbery to the roadside of Enterprise House and the Shopping Centre looks wonderful together with that of Eagle Star (Frascati Road). The mature tree at the 'Mazda' centre is most impressive. At least one planter near the DART station needs to be replanted. The grounds of 'The Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business' look particularly well from the roadside.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

It is good to note from this year's submission the arrival of four pairs of mating swans and it is hoped that they will find a safe haven in their chosen location in Blackrock. A wildlife programme has not been identified in your submission. The proximity of Blackrock to the sea would make a coastal wildlife project most appropriate as does your proximity to

Boosterstown Marsh.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was quite good during adjudication. Do send us in details of your litter management strategy as it can help you to earn more marks. A few take-away wrappers and cartons spoiled an otherwise good presentation in the village centre. Litter control was less good in the car park at the DART station.

### **TIDINESS**

It is good to note that the sanitary division of the County Council is responsive to your request to remove items which form a problem under this heading. The undeveloped site beside the old 'Order of Malta' premises will hopefully be redeveloped appropriately in the not too distant future. Graffiti at the DART station was a bit of an eyesore.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are a large number of residential developments in Blackrock, most are presented to a very high standard in respect of public and private green areas. Your note re car parking spaces in residential areas is acknowledged. The 'Newtown Villas' red bricked single storey dwellings are charming. There is a successful mix of town houses with gardens and apartment dwellings, most are well presented, however boundary walls and railings, in many instances, could be improved. The entrance to 'Carysfort Park' was very much admired together with that of 'The Cloisters'. The small 'Phoenix Terrace' residential development was admired.

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

We acknowledge the problem caused by through traffic and wish you success in your traffic management programme. Street furniture looks well and the new lamp standards were particularly admired. No name stones or village nameplates were noted. Some of the old street signs could be refurbished and retained as they have character and are bi-lingual. (An example is the one on the Main Street). The wirescape at the 'The Missing Swan' premises is particularly visually obtrusive.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall experience of Blackrock village and environs is most pleasant and enjoyable. Do submit a map identifying the village boundaries for next year's competition.