

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	250	247

Skerries, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Skerries is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The town enjoys a superb location on the coastline and the entrance from the Balbriggan Road is quite magnificent with its panoramic views of seascape and the harbour against a backdrop of the town is splendid. The beach is a wonderful amenity also. Well done on the development of parks and the refurbishment of the Mills. The panoramic view of the sea from the Red Island development is a wonderful asset. The detailed monthly work programme is impressive and your determined and focused efforts are evidenced throughout the town, congratulations. The support you receive from individual volunteers and work parties is an achievement in itself, well done. The development of Slí na Slá inte routes throughout Skerries is an excellent idea. We also note your efforts regarding new traffic management plans and wish you well in this endeavor.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Congratulations on the re-thatching of one cottage and the plans for the other two. South Strand is developing nicely. It is good to note the retention of traditional features when properties are being refurbished. Many properties along Strand Street could be upgraded. The wide footpaths could be redesigned to be an amenity feature of Skerries. A number of properties are being considered for Shopfront Awards, these include: The Gladstone Inn, The Coast Inn, a property at the junction of Church Street and New Street and The Malting House Inn. The area around the Art Shed is drab in appearance, more could be achieved here. Both the church and library are impressive buildings. The ESB shop is bland in appearance. If you are submitting photographs for Shopfront Awards, ensure that the entire building is included in the photograph and not just the shopfront.

LANDSCAPING

Your activities regarding the tree lined Church Street and Strand Street is to be commended. The new sculpture near the harbour is an impressive development. As always, the entrance from the Dublin Road is beautifully landscaped to the highest standards. The flower display on the Balbriggan Road also looks well. It is good to note that you plant native species of trees as these will attract wildlife. Well done on regrassing the verges on Balbriggan Street. The trees planted along Strand Street are doing quite well given your coastal location. The junction of Holmpatrick, Church Street and Strand Street is an attractive development. We look forward to the development of the Nun's Field for an amenity viewing point and car parking area. We also look forward to the development of the new park in 2003.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The beach and foreshore area together with the harbour area were presented to the highest standard during adjudication and congratulations on the new Cormorant sculpture which celebrates your wildlife. The pond at the entrance to Skerries Mills is an attractive feature and it is good to note the heron and moor hens. A walk through the Ballast Pit is a very pleasurable experience. Your work on the Shennig Island Reserve is being considered for the Wildlife Award.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is very good. Your efforts have paid off in this respect. If you have a litter management strategy, do send in details as they can earn additional marks.

TIDINESS

Your treatment of derelict buildings is good, most of these are well painted as an interim measure, pending redevelopment. Weed control is strong throughout also. It is good to note that fly posting and graffiti is not tolerated and that the Fingal County Council are prompt in dealing with reports of dumping.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many excellent new residential developments in the environs of Skerries. Quite a few town houses need to be painted, encourage the retention of traditional features of buildings upon refurbishment. Many roadside boundary walls to residential properties in Sherlock Terrace and Sherlock Park could be upgraded. The green areas along Millers Lane are impressive. Well done to local gardeners for their performance in Fingal County Council's Tidy District's Competition.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Congratulations on securing funding for the ducting of service cables along South Strand, we anticipate a similar development for Strand Street also. As noted above, footpaths along Strand Street could be featured more. Some litter bins along the foreshore area need to be cleaned. The Red Island car park, playing area and greens are a wonderful amenity and are being maintained to the highest standards. Stone walls to Red Island were admired also. The direction sign for the railway did not seem to be in place on the day of adjudication. The disabled access at the railway station is being considered for an award.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Each visit to Skerries is witness to the ongoing improvement of the recreational and visual amenity value of the town.

Second Adjudication (01/08/2002)

On a grey morning much of Skerries had a bright and cheerful appearance. The roundabout etc. on the Dublin approach always creates a wonderful first impression but why cannot the verges on the Balbriggan approach be maintained to a similar standard? Road surfacing throughout much of the town including the frontage of the Railway Station leaves much to be desired. Residential areas were generally again well presented. A light scattering of litter was evident in many amenity areas but notably not at Red Island. Commercial premises varied from the exceptional to those drab and seemingly neglected. The continuance of thatched roofing in most appropriate, particularly on the traditional single storey cottages which are so prevalent and characteristic of Skerries. The harbour area was reasonable although weedy in places. It was good to see some infilling of derelict sites on South Strand as this area needs a substantial uplift to reach the general town standard. The well ordered Church Street was much admired.