

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	39
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	22
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	17
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	200	189

Temple Bar, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Temple Bar is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Initiatives taken by the Temple Bar Tidy Towns Committee are admirable and are paying dividends. In particular the new machine sponsored by Karcher and the "Green and Clean" slogan is a wonderful initiative. It is good to note the co-operation of the Tidy Towns Committee with bodies such as The Sustainable Ireland Co-op and, of course, business interests. The Temple Bar area has many attractive features, not least of which is its cultural centres and public spaces. Your Area Action Plan, with funding of €200,000 to be used for additional services, special promotions and marketing, appears to be a good investment. The overall presentation of Temple Bar on adjudication day was exceptionally good. Well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It was a pleasure to note that the majority of buildings retain their traditional timber sash windows. Most buildings are very well presented and the Teach na Ceibhe (The Quays) is being considered for the Irish Shopfront Award. Some buildings could be improved somewhat, for example the roadside façade of the New Theatre could be sharpened up a little and the entrance to the Internet House Eircom building is quite scruffy. The building which forms the corner of Bedford Row and Fleet Street needs cleaning / painting also.

LANDSCAPING

Both hard and soft landscaping throughout the Temple Bar area is imaginative and nicely presented. The public open space across from Cow Lane located beside the Viking Adventure place was very much admired together with the building details which enclose it. The constellation on the back wall, forming the outline of a viking ship is a particularly creative touch. All open spaces looked well and are being maintained to a high standard. The new public garden is a wonderful initiative.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We note with interest your plans for thirteen bird boxes throughout the Temple Bar area. Has there been a survey of Temple Bar to indicate species of birds and perhaps identify threats and opportunities to encourage more bird life? The Liffey is a wonderful natural amenity to have on your doorstep.

LITTER CONTROL

Congratulations on your new 'waste partnership' which has been set up together with your waste management strategy. Well done on the removal of the majority of Euro bins from the area and the impact that this has on the streetscape. A few

Euro bins were still in evidence outside of Smock Alley court and Dollard House (to the back of it), in Sycamore Street. No doubt these will be eliminated in due course. Quite a lot of litter was noted in Sycamore Street and a little in Temple Bar Square. However, for a centre so densely populated and with such a huge footfall, this was not a serious problem, the adjudicator has confidence that your "Green and Clean" initiative and the new machine is paying dividends, well done!

TIDINESS

The main problem under this heading is the remaining derelict buildings and an undeveloped site. The corner site at Exchange Street Lower features a number of derelict buildings. Some advertisement hoardings are a problem here also. The undeveloped derelict site behind Barb's pub located across from the entrance to the Meeting House Square presents a problem also. No doubt the problem of derelict buildings and the undeveloped site will be resolved in the not too distant future. The open storage of rubbish in the corner at Eden Restaurant was surprising.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Congratulations on the new Cow's Lane residential development, this looked exceptionally well. Residential properties in Temple Bar blend in nicely with commercial properties and, in line with the overall presentation of the built environment, are well presented also. The provision of equipment, information and financial support to residents should encourage greater enthusiasm amongst the local population.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

New street lighting in East Essex Street, West Essex Street, Copper Alley and Exchange Street were much admired. Most items of street furniture looked really well. A notable exception were some service boxes which were graffitied. Overall the standard of presentations of roads, paved areas, laneways and footpaths is good, as one would expect from an urban area with such a high profile.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Temple Bar was a pleasure to adjudicate, not only for its excellent appearance but for its cultural interest also. Much has been achieved for the area in recent years and initiatives taken by the Committee would lead one to expect further improvements over the next few years. The Temple Bar area is being considered for the Urban Village Award, congratulations!