

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Howth**

Ref: **188**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **220**

Category: **E**

Date: **02/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	220	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form, background information, newsletters and copies of meetings notes which all proved very useful on adjudication day for this year's competition. The committee is obviously working all year round planning and monitoring areas of work and are to be commended for their efforts. The committee works well with Fingal County Council who clearly support your efforts and contribute to the continued growth in marks for Howth. The inclusion of Scoil Mhuire in the Green Schools initiative is a welcome development. There are many clubs, societies and associations in the area, which can all contribute, to the success of Howth in the Tidy Towns competition.

The Built Environment:

Howth is an outstanding historic fishing village with a mix of business, residential and leisure amenities. It has an architectural mix of old and new that all form part of its character and yet Howth has to cope with a considerable amount of traffic and day-trippers. The Harbour area is a unique asset to the town. While a number of developments have been completed, there are still several developments under construction that creates an unavoidable untidy impression. The addition of the illustrated Information Board is a wonderful addition to visitors to the Piers. Well done.

Landscaping:

Many of the green areas in Howth are presented to a very good standard. The greens in front of the Yacht Club appear much improved. Ensure the removal of any wind blown litter from planted areas. The cutting back of some shrubbery will prove effective and does help to give an overall impression of tidiness. We were unable to locate the Bogeem Stream project on adjudication day; perhaps more detail could be given on how to access this area. The tree-planting programme suggested in last year's report is not mentioned in the submission and it could be a project for inclusion in your plans. The landscaping around the Castle grounds was good and the area well presented and there is opportunity for further landscaping here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations to all involved in securing the placement of the illustrated Information Panels at the various locations in Howth. They are attractive, useful and add a 'welcome' feel. It would also be interesting to have more information on the wildlife area near Howth Summit that is a unique feature in an urban town. The committee should continue their work with Fingal County Council on the Cliff walk.

Litter Control:

This is the section that was most noticeable on adjudication day with only incidental pieces of litter throughout the town. Well done to all concerned. The committee's efforts on litter control, the Green Schools initiative, more bins, more regular emptying, newsletters, etc. are all having effect. Howth receives many day-trippers and as adjudication was on a Friday it is hoped that efforts are not undone at the weekends. Continue your efforts in anti-litter campaigns to tackle black spot areas. The recycling area was well organised and seemed busy.

Tidiness:

Howth gave an overall impression of tidiness on adjudication day and the committee are to be commended on their work in this section. Good maintenance of verges, kerbs, removal of weeds from the base of buildings and walls and regular re-painting all contribute to a tidy appearance. Colourful flower displays are a welcome addition but do not replace efforts in keeping the area tidy. The newsletter is an excellent communication tool to help encourage more vigilance maintaining a tidy village. Well done. There still appears to be some problems with dog dirt in the Pier area and the pooper scooper project could be extended to the Pier area to help overcome this issue.

Residential Areas:

There are a great variety of residential areas in Howth ranging from very large to rows of traditional village housing. The standard of presentation was again very good this year and efforts appear to have been extended by residents to include the areas in front of their properties that add to the overall attractive appearance. Consideration could be given, in consultation with the Council, to creating a mulching programme whereby residents could deposit their grass, leaves and cuttings that could then be used in various planters in the village. This can be a very practical and effective way of generating more support for the committees' efforts. Continue to encourage the development of residents associations.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are well presented, however there was some incidental litter on the Thormanby Road approach. Suitable 'welcome signs' could be considered for this approach also. Generally the streets are well presented in the village and parking, particularly for the disabled seems to be better organised. Some of the laneways are in need of attention and this can detract from the overall impression. The playground at Tucket's Lane requires some attention and repainting. It is a disappointment to note the graffiti at various points in the village.

General Impression:

Howth is a charming busy urban village, steeped in history and tradition. It receives many day-trippers and while it has many leisure amenities, it still operates a productive fishing industry. The Harbour area is an attractive focal point and gives an overall impression of a well-maintained busy area. The introduction of the Information Panels is very welcome and helps the visitor to access many of the attractions of the area, including the cliff walks and spectacular sea views. There are areas which require attention however the committee have developed a five year plan and good working relationships with the County Council, local business and the community which hopefully will result in getting much done in the coming year.