

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rush**

Ref: **312**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **181**

Category: **E**

Date: **09/07/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 34 | 33 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 24 | 23 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 23 | 22 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 16 | 16 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 23 | 23 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 13 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 20 | 20 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 181 | 177 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form, map and support materials for this years competition. While it is disappointing that you have such a small committee, that can often mean an effective committee provided you have good support from local business and the community. It is important that you develop a good working relationship with Fingal County Council and other public bodies to discuss plans for the area. Rush is a charming and historic seaside suburban village that is experiencing huge growth in housing development at present. This presents some difficulties for the committee, however the many new residents of Rush should be made aware of the committee's plans to gain support for its work, both in terms of fund-raising and physical assistance. Consider introducing the Green Schools initiative to gather support from local children and participate in An Taisce's National Spring Clean to generate further awareness and to build further support from residents.

The Built Environment:

Rush is a developing suburban village with a mix of old and new buildings. It is important to monitor development plans for the area to protect the character of the village. Encourage any new signage to fit in with the local context. There are several premises that were well presented on adjudication day; the Anchor, the Little Chip Inn and the Credit Union building. There are several less cared for buildings and some derelict buildings along the main streets that require attention. The National School, The Church and the Arts centre were well presented. There does not appear to

be access to the old Tower up from the Pier, which could be examined as a future project. The traditional water pumps are a delightful feature in the village. Business owners should be encouraged to extend their presentation activities to the footpaths and street immediately beside their properties, which would upgrade the overall streetscape considerably.

Landscaping:

It is recognised that it is difficult to initiate landscaping projects while you are awaiting the completion of several development projects. You are to be commended on the work on the Skerries Road and the colourful flowerbed in the green area opposite the Church which were well presented. Now is the time to plan future landscaping projects; consider some further tree-planting projects and remember clever use of shrubbery can have attractive all year round effects.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Rush is well positioned with wonderful natural amenities including two sandy beaches located so close to its village. Consideration should be given to carrying out a survey of the wildlife and sea life of the area. This could be used to help plan suitable development for the area that would take account of the wildlife. Information Panels could be positioned in key locations that would help raise awareness among the community and visitors alike. As mentioned previously, the cliff walk north of the town towards Loughshinny could be a welcome development project to include signposting and information panels.

Litter Control:

The main street area was generally litter free however there were some black spots, the small green alongside the Eurospar shop and the green area opposite the National School had litter scattered all across them. Some bins were overflowing which may be part of the problem. Incidental litter was evident on the approach roads. There is a real need to encourage more community involvement to address this problem. The Green Schools initiative should be considered, given the high standard of presentation of the National School itself.

Tidiness:

The areas along Main Street appeared to be kept well and were generally tidy on adjudication day. However there is still much work required in this section. If individual properties take responsibility for their premises, much can be achieved in improving the overall impression of tidiness. Fresh painting, removal of weeds from base of walls and buildings, kerbsides and improvements to footpaths should be included in plans. Encourage more recycling facilities with particular emphasis on the new homeowners in the area to raise awareness of the committee's efforts. This area was overflowing on adjudication day. There was some evidence of graffiti that detracts from the village and harbour areas. The Pier area could be taken as a specific project for a tidy up, removal of weeds and general tidying here would have great effect on the overall impression of tidiness.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas were well presented in general, both in the village and in the surrounding areas. There is a problem with some derelict houses (e.g. Shamrock Cottage) in the village that is recognised by the committee. The introduction of local residential competitions, often through local residents associations, can assist greatly in raising the overall standard of presentation and this should be considered.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

While there were some incidental pieces of litter on the approach roads, the entrance to the Villages was quite good. Some attention should be given to the many laneways in the village, e.g. Barrack

Lane, the lane opposite 'The Forge' etc. More off-street parking should be sought and clear signs indicating parking areas and disabled parking should be included in plans. Any new signage should be bi-lingual where possible. A plan with regards to road and footpath improvements should be compiled for discussion with Fingal County Council. There is an opportunity to gain additional marks in this section.

General Impression:

Rush is a charming suburban village that is experiencing a considerable amount of new housing development that is affecting the village. This can be positive in terms of the development of the area, however it is important that a sense of community is developed to support the Committee's efforts. It is important that a 3-5 year strategy is planned to help gain more support both in terms in volunteers and financial support. Working in close co-operation with local authorities and the public bodies will be critical to achieving significant results in the competition. This small committee has set the foundation, well done.