

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sandycove**

Ref: **186**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **189**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	
The Built Environment	40	31	
Landscaping	40	25	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	
Litter Control	40	30	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	20	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	189	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome back to the tidy town's competition for 2004. It is good to see the committee's enthusiasm for re-entering the village into the competition after one year's absence. Thank you for your detailed map showing the boundaries of the village; it was very useful on the day of adjudication. It would be a good idea to include supporting documentation with your entry for next year. A detailed 3-5 year plan would allow the committee to set targets during the year and assess what has been achieved. It is also a good idea to include any maps or literature of heritage trails such as the Sli Na Slainte. It is great to see the cooperation between the various bodies and the school. The committee should also seek the help of the local community by approaching resident committees and local businesses people.

The Built Environment:

The overall presentation of the building and streetscape in Sandycove looked very well on the day of adjudication. The new shop fronts in the village were especially pleasing. St. Joseph's Church looked well. Perhaps some planters would add a splash of colour to the grounds. The Presentation Brothers' work was also noted. A number of shopfronts on the main street such as Peter Dunne's, Noel Kavanagh's, Gavistens, Eamons Book Shop, Rococo's and Eminence looked especially well and the businesses should be congratulated for their efforts. There was good use of good bilingual signs for the Joyce Tower and on the main street signs. The granite seat dedicated to Denis Burten and the James Joyce Ulysses stone on the green area at Otranto Place really reflect the community spirit

in the area. Welcome stones or signs would be a great addition to the village which should also be bilingual where appropriate.

Landscaping:

The planting of new trees down the main street and along Elton Park is to be commended and the flowers planted at the base of trees are a nice touch; however some kerb weeds were obvious. The planters and hanging baskets in front of the car park were looking particularly well. The green area at Otranto place could do with some attention. The future planting of native trees and shrubs for this area should be considered in the committee's strategy plan. The railings on the Sandycove Avenue West side of the green area could also do with some attention.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Unfortunately there were no details of activities under this heading. Wildlife should also be considered in the committees plans for the area. The erection of wildlife boards along the sea front at Marine Parade would be a great addition to the area as there were people birdwatching in the area on the day of adjudication. The committee could also involve the local primary schools in hanging bird feed baskets and organising nature days. The Sli Na Slainte information should be included here. The committee could also approach local environmental experts for advice. The coastal location of the village is a wonderful natural amenity for the local community and visitors to enjoy. The 40 foot bathing and beach areas on Sandycove Avenue West were extremely well presented and litter free on the day. The Joyce Tower has a nice natural area leading up to it for growing wildflowers to encourage wildlife however try not to let it get too overgrown.

Litter Control:

There was no obvious signs of litter on the main street, the approach roads or around any of the green areas in the village so the daily clean ups are obviously working. The dog waste signs by the beach are a good initiative. The installation of a bring-centre in the village would also encourage the community to recycle their waste. Keep up the good work!

Tidiness:

The Sandycove Road area, especially the main shopping area, is kept very neat and tidy. There was some evidence of weeds growing under the sign for Ballygihen Avenue which took away from the nicely preserved stone wall. The tennis courts off Elton Park looked well. Albert Road has a nicely maintained stone wall. Sandy Cove Avenue West was litter free and bin barrels are obviously used. However, some graffiti was noted on the red brick building off Sandycove Avenue West.

Residential Areas:

Residents gardens on the Glasthule approach road were presented well. Marine Avenue is nicely maintained , unfortunately there was some evidence of kerb weeds at the residential stone wall. The residential back lane between Marine Avenue and Burdett Avenue could also do with some attention. Burdett Avenue is a well maintained residential area. The grounds at Gowan Hall apartment block are well kept. Tara Hall Bed & Breakfast effort was noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main street and footpaths are very well maintained. The Dalkey side of the Sandycove Road has some nicely maintained stone walls, however the bench could do with some attention. Elton Park Road has some nice newly planted trees and no visible signs of litter. The Glasathule approach has well maintained mature trees. Sandycove place back area was nicely presented.

General Impression:

Sandycove has a wonderful urban village feel about it and the committee's efforts of working with different statutory bodies on environmental issues is commended. The annual Bloomsday events are an asset to the area bringing in visitors from around the world, so it is important the community keeps the area looking well. By getting local businesses, community groups and school children involved in the tidy towns it will encourage a sense of pride and responsibility.