

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Skerries** Ref: **602**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **262**
Category: **E** Date: **27/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	27
Litter Control	40	34	32
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	262	255

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your comprehensive submission. It is wonderful to see the work that your committee has done with eleven members. The support and enthusiasm for the enhancement and improvement Skerries is encouraging. The structure of your development plan will help you to prioritise your plans and will provide you with a means to carry out work and also a method to monitor and evaluate progress in the future. By working together with the local community, the council and local businesses you can retain all the wonderful attributes of the Skerries. This is particularly relevant in light of the all the development taking place in the surrounding area of North County Dublin. Thank you for your comprehensive materials that accompanied this year's application – they were of great assistance on the day of adjudication.

The Built Environment:

The buildings in Skerries were extremely well presented on the day of adjudication. The Red Bank looked well as did McGowan Solicitors' office. The Garda station, the library, among others also looked very well and were extremely well kept. It is heartening to see that they are interested in participating with your committee's efforts in the competition. The residences throughout your town were extremely well kept and were quite impressive. The front of The National Irish Bank again looked tired and uncared for and can detract from the overall appearance of the town. It was noted that the railway station remains unpainted despite your best efforts. All of the new apartment units along the strand were extremely well presented also.

Landscaping:

There are many lovely landscapes throughout your town. Most impressive is the entrance to Skerries with the wonderful colourful flower beds that greet you as you enter the town. Your work in association with Prosper Fingal is certainly showing results; all the flower boxes looked extremely well cared for on the day of adjudication. Congratulations on the number of trees that have been planted throughout the community – 5,000 is an impressive number, well done. The completion of the work at Kellys Bay is welcomed and the work done by the council at the back of the harbour is quite an improvement.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Skerries is a lovely town in rural Dublin, and has an enviable number of natural amenities. Your work in association with Birdwatch Ireland is to be commended. The pond in Skerries Mills is quite impressive and your plans to have an island put in place to encourage more species to nest there is commendable.

Litter Control:

There was virtually no litter in evidence on the day of adjudication in Skerries. Your committee is to be congratulated on its everyday efforts to keep the town litter free. Your efforts have certainly paid off in this category. One exception was the Car Park at Red Island that had black bags that looked like they were dumped beside the litter bin.

Tidiness:

Skerries was once again very tidy on the day of adjudication. Your committee are to be congratulated for your efforts in this area. It was noted that premises affected by the smoking ban provided receptacles where possible for cigarette butts and once again your vigilance in this area is to be commended. Keep up the good work!

Residential Areas:

There are many beautiful residences throughout Skerries with well maintained grounds and lovely flower filled gardens, adding colour and life to the area. All houses in all estates and on roads and streets were very impressive on the day of adjudication. It is clear that all residents in Skerries take a great deal of pride in their homes and the presentation of them.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads, streets and back areas were very well signed and their presentation was of a very high standard.

General Impression:

The General impression of Skerries is one of a great sense of pride in your community. It is quite clear that your community are eager to have necessary improvements carried out as evidenced by the hard work that is continually carried out by your dedicated committee and community. Your co-operation with the council, schools, sporting groups, scouts and An Taisce has been noted and we wish you every success for your future plans for Skerries.

Second Round Adjudication:

There is no doubt that the superbly landscaped approach from Lusk gives an immediately impressive

introduction to Skerries. So, too, do the splendid sails of the restored windmills, seen from coastal approaches, providing an immediate sense of identification to the prospect of the town. Your Wildlife and Natural Amenities mark is exceptionally high: special congratulations on your marine conservancy and your tree planting programmes. It was encouraging to see a planning application notice on the derelict building which has long since been a blight on the symmetry of the central square; it is assumed that a building in sympathy with its existing neighbours will result. A pity that the Railway Station and its surrounds have not been improved. The numerous lanes of small dwellings, while not conspicuously tidy, do provide an essential charm, and it is these which give Skerries its special character. Neat 'corners' of landscaping and floral planting throughout the town were admired, but there are others where attention is needed. There is a remarkable sense of community involvement.