

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blackrock-Louth**

Ref: **49**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **218**

Category: **D**

Date: **09/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your entry into the Tidy Towns competition. If there was a prize for best completed entry form your adjudicator would certainly be nominating Blackrock for the top prize! Very clear and concise and, as always, it is most important that the committee spell out clearly what has been done in the past year to ensure that marks are awarded where merited for works completed. Congratulations on maintaining the continued co-operation of statutory bodies and local schools.

The Built Environment:

Blackrock is a seaside town that has much improved over the years. The promenade looks wonderful and the sundial a very striking piece of sculpture. The plan mentions discussion with shop owners on a co-ordinated colour scheme and it will be interesting to see how this develops. The Church grounds and St. Oliver Plunkett's National School are very well maintained. There are a number of notices along the seafront that read "Do Not Proceed Beyond This River at any Time" - what does this mean? The adjudicator asked in the shop on the main street and also some people walking along the promenade, but no one asked could explain. Does it mean people cannot walk on the beach? Where is the River? The wording appears to be confusing to locals so probably much more so to visitors. It is evident that there has been much development in new housing in recent years and as always this provides a challenge to the Tidy Town Committee.

Landscaping:

There has been much work done in terms of landscaping throughout the village and the hard work carried out by the committee is evident in many areas. The landscaping/planting at the promenade, the car park and at the Blackrock welcome signs are all most attractive. There is also a lovely area of shrubbery on the Rock Rd.

There were some uneven trees maturing at St. Furseys Tce. that requires attention. There was wonderful colour from the many hanging baskets that were well maintained and well watered - not an easy job!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Committee appears well on its way to addressing the lack of information available with regard to wildlife. The schools signing up for the Green Initiative is most welcome and an update of what is happening with the school on this would be helpful for next year's entry.

Litter Control:

Litter control along the main promenade was excellent. There were some areas of litter along the approach road from Dundalk and litter evident on some of the back roads around the village. The bottom of one of the recycling bins was broken and there were bags of rubbish left lying around the recycling bins.

Tidiness:

In general the promenade area and the whole approach road from Greengates was extremely tidy and well maintained. There were uneven margins and grass growing through the pavements on the approach road from Dundalk. There was graffiti on the doors of the Sandy Lane Rock Celtic F.C. building. The grounds of this building had some litter around the building and caught up in the base of the trees and the grass area. The entrance to the pitch itself was overgrown and untidy. Some of the areas at the back of the village were untidy, for example, untidy grass and kerbing at the entrance to Rathmount and on the road opposite this estate.

Residential Areas:

There are some excellent residential estates in Blackrock that were very well maintained and tidy. The majority of the gardens looked wonderful and make the village look bright and welcoming. There are some that are suffering from the development going on in the village e.g. the Birches; the entrance here was very untidy. Some of the houses on the approach road from Dundalk require painting and tidying up. Ongoing communication with the residents groups is essential and it is good to see this happening in Blackrock.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road from Greengates to the end of the promenade is very well maintained. It requires so much dedication to keep the promenade looking so well and the committee are to be congratulated for this (one small point, the lane directly opposite the Sundial was very unkempt on the day). It is suggested that something could be done to brighten up the sea wall in the carpark - it looks very plain and dull. Again there is much development going on around Blackrock and some of the back roads are showing the strain of the heavy goods vehicles on them. There appears to be constant upgrading of pavements and kerbs in conjunction with Louth County Council and this is most welcome and should continue as there are still some areas requiring attention.

General Impression:

A seaside village enjoying spectacular views. The promenade looks wonderful, not only the striking

sculpture but the flowers, tubs, baskets, shrubs and the tidiness of the entire length of the sea front. The population is growing all the time and this of course provides the committee with challenges each year. It is an extremely hard working and dedicated committee as is evident through the care and attention given to the application form and the detail contained therein about future plans and the work already completed. The adjudicator looks forward to the years ahead as the plans reach fruition.