

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyfermot**

Ref: **739**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **197**

Category: **E**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	32
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	17
Litter Control	40	20	15
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	21
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>179</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballyfermot is very welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission which included photographs, your plan and the proposed design for the Markievicz Park. It was interesting to see the photographs of your environmental awards and ceremony and to know of all the different award schemes that are in place for Ballyfermot. Of particular interest was the Save The Holly Tree project; to have sold 1,305 holly trees within a short time and to know that another 450 are planted in local schools is amazing. We also note with interest proposed signs for roundabout and playing fields and parks. The community is obviously committed to the presentation, appearance and quality of life possible in Ballyfermot and is lucky to have such a dedicated crew of workers to implement the various plans. Congratulations on a substantial increase in marks this year.

### The Built Environment:

Most commercial premises are reasonably well presented, however very few are outstanding in their presentation and a number were quite poor; the latter include a group of shops beside the Post Office on Decies Road. St. Gabriel's school and the Ballyfermot Community Resource Centre are important focal points within the area and whilst they were neatly presented, their overall appearance is drab, being lacking in colour; some consideration might be given to window boxes for these two important buildings. The Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre is excellent in presentation and landscaping to its roadside edge was very much admired; this building is being considered for

an award. Public buildings in general were well presented. Some consideration might be given to organising shopfront or best commercial premises competition.

### **Landscaping:**

We note with admiration your activities under this heading, ranging from organising plant sales to running a garden club, working on green open spaces and orchestrating major landscaping at the Californian Hills area. We also note your landscaping designs for various roundabouts and playing fields. Problem areas under this heading included the carparking bays at the shops on Decies Road, this road has already been referred to under the built environment. Another important initiative would be the landscaping of the roadside boundary to the industrial estate on the Ballyfermot Road, (on the opposite side to Cherry Orchard Hospital). Well done on an important initiative under this heading - your Save The Holly Tree project has already been referred to and this has earned you additional marks.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

We look forward with interest and enthusiasm to the Markievicz Park project. At the time of adjudication, its railings which formed the boundary, was badly in need of refurbishment, however the Park itself was neatly presented. Perhaps school children could become involved in a wildlife survey, for example doing a garden birdcount; bird boxes could be organised for various sites. We note designated wildlife areas included in the plan for Markievicz Park.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control has improved over last year and there has been a handsome increase in marks. No doubt your various environmental awareness activities have played their part here together with the help received from Dublin County Council. A lot of work still remains to be done, however the difficulty posed by passing traffic and such a large urban area is appreciated no doubt the community will find ways around these problems also. There appears to be sufficient litter bins and none were noted as being in need of emptying on adjudication day. Do keep us informed of all of your litter control activities, such as litter patrols and indeed your overall litter management strategy as this can earn you additional marks.

### **Tidiness:**

Well done on organising the sale of compost bins. Ballyfermot was quite tidy, however there were some problem areas, the most important being the lane to the rear of the row of shops along the Ballyfermot Road located opposite the entrance to the Tesco shopping centre. This lane was badly marked by graffiti on walls, gates, doors and a fair amount of litter was noted here also. Property owners should be encouraged to pay attention to their curtilage areas and, in particular, the boundary of their property with the public road, this includes both commercial and residential properties.

### **Residential Areas:**

Your Muskerry Road project is commendable and there were excellent results here. Hopefully this initiative will be offered to other areas also. Well done to the residents of Croftwood Crescent and Drumfinn Avenue, particularly the latter residents for taking the responsibility for the small green area. A large number of gardens have been converted for private off street carparking; people should be encouraged to include more planting in these areas also and to pay more attention to their roadside boundaries. Some attractive colour schemes to roadside facades of houses were noted.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Lampstandards on the Ballyfermot Road are attractive, however those in residential areas are of the

old, more or less unsightly, type and there were also many examples of unsightly wirescape in residential areas; hopefully this problem will be rectified over time. We note with interest work which has been accomplished for roundabouts and traffic islands and on-going work in these areas. Nameplates looked well but street furniture, particularly utility boxes and hand rails in some incidences were in need of refurbishment. Footpaths surfaces were quite well presented.

### **General Impression:**

The overall impression of Ballyfermot is one of a vibrant community in a busy urban area that is deeply committed to enhancing its home environment and improving the quality of life for all. Congratulations on a handsome increase in marks this year.