

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Chapelizod**

Ref: **599**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **209**

Category: **C**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	19
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>203</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Chapelizod is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission which included your five year plan, your Urban Design Conservation and Land Use document, draft proposals for the Liffey Valley Park and the Chapelizod Local Area Plan together with the Community Newsletter. Chapelizod is a very old settlement on an important archeological / historic site and has a valuable heritage which should be embraced and protected. There appears to be strong community spirit within the village which is well prepared and equipped to protect the heritage of Chapelizod from the pressures of twenty first century development. Well done to all who area involved in this endeavor.

### The Built Environment:

The built environment of Chapelizod dates back several hundred years and we note your many and varied heritage buildings. Modern buildings are pleasing on the eye also and your work with developers, conservationists, planners, etc., is most effective. Both corner sites at the bridge appear to be earmarked for development in the near term future as both feature site notices. It is anticipated that new developments will complement existing development at this junction, namely Murray's Bridge House. Other modern developments within the community are being nicely presented and have been well executed. Variety Tiles Ltd. on St. Laurence Road has a poor presentation including its signage. We look forward to the redevelopment beside Kelly's Fruit, Veg and Off-Licence premises on the Main Street. Chapelizod Pharmacy and adjacent Spar store both

look well as does The Villager Bar & Lounge. Well done on the renovation of the BandRoom and on your bilingual signs.

### **Landscaping:**

Mature trees on the Main Street contribute to the gracious appearance of the town centre of Chapelizod and are complemented nicely by nearby flowerbeds on the traffic island. Flower displays and container plants have been noted at several locations and these add a touch of colour. Some containers in the Weir residential development need to have dead growth removed. The landscaped verges of St. Laurence Road were admired. It is suggested that you extend your landscaping activities to the turning point at the end of the Lucan road and rehabilitate the verge here.

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

We note with interest your survey of wildlife to include herons, divers, cormorants, kingfishers, jays, mallard duck, water hens, coots and swans. We also note your reference to the black mink. This is an interesting list and it is a credit to the community that so much of wildlife has been preserved. At the time of adjudication, wildflowers were in abundance on the bank of the river, you might consider undertaking a survey of fauna now. The provision of fishing stands for the proposed Liffey Valley Linear Park will be a welcome amenity.

### **Litter Control:**

There was a light scattering of litter around the main street, particularly around the shops, however it was not a serious problem. More serious was extensive litter along St. Laurence Road and at one of the redundant entrances to the park from this road; by comparison the Lucan Road was litter free, well done. The difficulty of sweeping streets is appreciated when cars are parked there throughout the day, however there is no parking on St. Laurence Road so this is not the cause of the litter there.

### **Tidiness:**

Weedy kerbs to footpaths were a feature of St. Laurence Road also and the entrance and boundary wall of the Chapelizod Industrial Estate had an overall untidy appearance. Well done on the repainting of the old telephone kiosk. No doubt Chapelizod will improve its standing in this section of the competition upon the redevelopment of derelict or vacant sites and buildings.

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential properties within Chapelizod are a successful mix of single, two and three storey dwellings in addition to bungalow type dwellings on approach roads. Most are presented to a high standard and many still retain their traditional features. Those that remain unpainted could brighten their appearance by the use of flower boxes on window ledges, etc. Maiden Row which is an older development is pleasant in appearance but weedy kerbs were a problem here. The Weir is an attractive development of apartments as is the Mill Race and Northcliff, all of which are neatly presented. The roadside area to the boundary of the Northcliff apartments was nicely landscaped at the time of adjudication.

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

We appreciate the difficulties caused by the heavy volumes of through traffic and indeed this created a problem on the day of adjudication also as it was difficult to negotiate the streets, either by foot or by car. We wish you well with the preparation and implementation of the traffic management plan for Chapelizod. The nameplate on the Dublin approach road looked well whilst that on the entrance from Knockmaroon Hill was in need of attention. Street furniture is generally well presented, however the wirescape is quite unsightly at a number of points, particularly across the road from

Kellys where one pole has cables radiating from it in several directions. Footpaths are generally good and old kerb stones within the environs of the telephone kiosk and The Villager Public House were noted.

### **General Impression:**

The overall impression of Chapelizod is one of a village that is undergoing a transition period in terms of the redevelopment of the built environment and there are obviously associated problems with such redevelopment. The community appears to have a strong sense of community pride and will, no doubt, be successful in meeting the challenges presented by twenty first century development. A good overall presentation!