

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Raheny**

Ref: **95**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **224**

Category: **E**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	16
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>216</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Raheny is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent detailed submission and most particularly your details of year three of the Raheny Village and Business Association Development Plan. It is a pleasure to note your activities in relation to the overall development of your lovely village and how the committee works with statutory bodies such as Dublin City Council, Iarnród Eireann, the Gardai, Dublin Bus and local clubs, associations, schools and businesses. It is also a pleasure to note how appreciative the committee is to all groups for their support but most especially to Dublin City Council. There has been a well deserved increase in marks this year and we look forward to charting your future progress.

### The Built Environment:

St. Brigid's Parish Resource Centre was particularly admired in respect both of its overall design and its presentation including landscaping. Public buildings were generally well presented and this included All Saint's Church, the old St. Assams Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Library and all schools. Congratulations on the redevelopment of the shopping centre by Supervalu and the opening of the River Cafe. It is good to note activities such as using old but valuable building materials on the further refurbishment of the built environment, in particular to the use of old slates and blocks from the Catholic Church tower for the refurbishment of the railway bridge. Shops in general enjoyed a good standard of maintenance and presentation.

## **Landscaping:**

The double row of mature trees lining the Howth Road and the Watermill Road are a wonderful feature of landscaping in Raheny and a valuable heritage from previous generations. Container planting was admired throughout the village and on approaches and entrances, including hanging baskets on business premises. Planting of the flowerbed was in progress at the junction with the James Larkin Road. The bed on the corner of the Sion Hill Road had not yet been planted at the time of adjudication. The hedgerow along All Saints Road was in need of trimming, however the stretch along Mount Prospect Avenue was beautifully shaped.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The results of your Birdwatch Ireland Winter Garden Bird Count is quite interesting. A decrease in the number of sparrows and an increase in the number of foxes - have you any idea of what might have caused this? We would be interested to know. The wildlife panels along the seafront walk are excellent, do try to keep them clear of graffiti and in a good state of repair. Pride of place must go to the river bridge development, it looks particularly well and St. Paul's Transition Year Students are to be commended for their work on cleaning and landscaping the river banks here, well done.

## **Litter Control:**

The work of the group on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings have been most effective in keeping Raheny litter free as litter control throughout was excellent at the time of adjudication. Problematic areas included the corner of Watermill Road and the James Larkin Road and the soft banks on the latter road. Some scraps were noted along the verge on All Saints Road and the carpark of the tennis courts at St. Annes. Street cleaners were noted in a number of places and by the time adjudication had finished the roads and streets of Raheny were litter free.

## **Tidiness:**

A laneway leading down to the James Larkin Road was a little untidy in appearance and verges in the carpark at the tennis courts noted above were very weedy. However the trees here were doing quite well. Graffiti at the corner of Sion Hill Road should be eliminated and some stretches of weatherstained high wall could be cleaned and / or painted as appropriate. Have you considered participation in the Race Against Waste initiative for the business community?

## **Residential Areas:**

The overall presentation under this heading is excellent, the majority of residential developments being nicely maintained in respect of green open spaces, verges and individual curtilage areas. A number of boundary walls were weather stained and in need of improvement and this was particularly noteworthy on All Saint's Road. We note from your submission that you keep in contact with Resident's Associations and use the Raheny News to encourage residents to be vigilant. Perhaps some encouragement can be given to the presentation of boundary walls and roadside areas to boundary walls. We wish you every success in securing a heritage grant for the refurbishment of the Crescent Cottages and congratulations on the commitment of Dublin City Council for the cleaning and refurbishment of the forecourt and centrepiece.

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

Roads, streets and back areas as noted above are being well maintained and were litter free. Well done on recent refurbishment to footpaths and walls and on new road markings and refurbishment of traffic islands. Street furniture was generally well presented. The new maps with details of walks, heritage and places of interest in Raheny are an excellent initiative and will work to enhance the appreciation of visitors and residents of your lovely village. We wish you every luck in the

retention and refurbishment of the old Station Master's house with the permission of Iarnród Eireann. We appreciate the difficulty caused by commuter parking and a heavy through flow of traffic and hope that you are successful in achieving an off street carparking facility to make life easier for residents.

### **General Impression:**

Well done on a fine presentation this year. The village enjoys an excellent commitment to the environment from all sections of the community and this benefits both the local community and the wider community. We look forward to charting your progress in future years.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The size of the Raheny area provides a major workload for the Tidy Towns Committee, because Raheny is really an urban village. This makes the presentation of the village on the day of 2nd round adjudication all the more commendable. The standard of presentation continued that noted on the day of 1st round adjudication. Litter control was again of a high standard, but occasional litter was noted along the sea front walk. Hopefully you will be able to proceed with the restoration work on the Crescent Cottages, and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the completed project.