

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Temple Bar**

Ref: **741**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **221**

Category: **D**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	20
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	221	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

Temple Bar is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included valuable information. We note the absence of a map however and would advise you to submit one next year showing work achieved in the past year. It is good to note that the Tidy Towns Committee (TASCQ) work closely with Dublin City Council, the Gardai and other statutory bodies with a common goal of providing a quality environment in Temple Bar and that you have the support of traders, residents and service advisors. The funding you receive is reflected in the excellent standard of maintenance throughout the area. Continue in your efforts to bring all business efforts on board the Tidy Towns movement and to further develop Temple Bar as a centre of contemporary cultural activities.

The Built Environment:

Temple Bar's three public open spaces each have their own character and offer a different experience. Temple Bar Square was very lively at the time of adjudication to the point of being crowded and featured an ambience of festivity. Both Meeting House Square and Cow's Lane were much quieter and conducive to a leisurely stroll to soak up the delights on offer in the area. The majority of commercial premises are presented to a high standard and those that were considered for shopfront awards included Too Cool Design, Retrospect, Oliver St. John Gogarty, The Auld Dubliner. Premises in need of attention to their roadside facade included J.A. Powell and adjoining premises in Essex Street West and the large premises which forms the corner of Bedford Row and

Fleet Street. Many buildings were admired for their fine architectural details and overall presentation. These included The Foggy Dew premises, the Trinity Arch Hotel and others.

Landscaping:

Congratulations on the new trees procured for Anglesea Street in 2004. The silver birch trees which grace Temple Bar Square are maturing beautifully. Flower displays were noted throughout the area and those along Fleet Street which have been in situ since earlier this year were particularly admired for their colour and profusion; they complemented the refurbished old lampstandards. Flower displays were admired on the College Bar, The Quays Bar and Restaurant, The Foggy Dew, The Trinity Arch Hotel, The Turk's Head and many more. The curtilage area of the Central Bank featured attractive hard landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the provision of thirteen bird boxes throughout the area and on identifying gardens which provide a haven for wild birds. The adjudicator concurs with the recommendations in last year's report to seek the expertise available from Birdwatch Ireland in relation to erecting bird life information panels at various locations around the district.

Litter Control:

Well done on organising your Green and Clean Competition and on your participation in the IBAL litter survey. We note from your submission that the cleaning of Temple Bar takes place seven days a week. For such a busy part of the city, the Temple Bar area was very clean. Litter control was excellent in the following areas: Fownes Street, Cecilia Street, the Central Bank, Crowe Street, Meeting House Square, Essex Street East and West, Parliament Street, Exchange Street Upper and Prices Lane. Litter control was less good at the corner of Curved Street, in Copper Alley, in Merchants Arch at the Number One shop and in Temple Bar Square. Litter at the latter venue was mostly beer cans, take-away food cartons and was generated by crowds eating in public. Encourage business premises to keep their facades free of graffiti, some was noted in Merchants Arch on Cecelia House, the Music Centre and in Copper Alley. Cigarette ends were quite prevalent in Essex Street East, perhaps cigarette receptacles could be placed here.

Tidiness:

The 5.1 million bottles and jars collected for recycling in the Temple Bar area in 2003 is an astonishing achievement. Well done on this initiative. Recycling bins at the Central Bank were overflowing and the derelict site overlooking Meeting House Square, located beside Bad Bobs is problematic under this heading. A development site at Astons Place was noted, however any untidiness here is no doubt temporary.

Residential Areas:

Cows Lane is a beautiful development with fine landscaping and appropriate street furniture. It was very clean at the time of inspection. It is good to note that the Tidy Towns Committee provide cleaning services for the exterior of residential properties on a twice weekly basis and we note the large residential population of Temple Bar in almost three hundred apartments.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The refurbishment of Essex Bridge and the development of the new bridge both provide attractive entrances to the Temple Bar area along with the traditional Halfpenny Bridge. Road surfaces are attractive throughout the Temple Bar area and limestone trim to cobblestoned surface was admired in Fownes Street and elsewhere. Street furniture was clean and well presented in most instances and we note that litter bins are washed every week with eleven back areas being cleaned up also on

a weekly basis. The entrance to Meeting House Square was admired both for its cleanliness and the quality of building materials used. Signposting was good throughout the area.

General Impression:

A good balance has been achieved for the built environment of Temple Bar between contemporary expression and traditional architecture. This is complemented beautifully by a high standard of maintenance and an appropriate landscaping programme.