

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Howth**

Ref: **649**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **226**

Category: **E**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	226	220

Overall Developmental Approach:

Howth is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for this year's submission, which included an excellent rolling plan with map and supplemented by photographs. All were useful in the course of adjudication. The village enjoys an excellent coastal location, on the side of a hill; it affords panoramic scenic views of harbour, island, seascapes, streetscapes and roofscapes and generates a lot of visual interest. The committee is obviously committed to making the most of all of these attributes and has presented Howth to a standard of excellence in this year's Tidy Towns Competition, well done. Cognisance has been taken of your excellent publications.

The Built Environment:

The built environment in Howth village and on its outskirts is most attractive. The rise and fall of its streets add drama and interest to an unusually beautiful setting. Old buildings and new combine to make Howth a most attractive town with some wonderful streetscapes. Many buildings have retained their traditional features. A few buildings on Main Street and Abbey Street are in need of upgrading, a case in point being the upper stories of Tara Racing and the awning on the Cibo premises (on the Harbour Road) might be replaced as it is beginning to look a little jaded now. The new apartment development at the site of the old Saint Laurence Hotel is almost finished and looks well. The roadside boundary wall of Scoil Mhuire should be cleaned and / or painted as appropriate. Unpainted roadside facades could benefit from colourful flower displays in window boxes in many instances. Well done on work accomplished to date on the Church of the Assumption, and in

particular on fund-raising to pay for the work. We wish you well on your new fund-raising drive. Your excellent photographs of Howth's important buildings in your submission were appreciated.

Landscaping:

Flower displays at Beshoffs, Wrights and The Bloody Stream were admired as were those at the Country Kitchen and other business premises around the village. Flowerbeds and other flower displays throughout were admired also for their colour and profusion. Green open spaces are generally well maintained and hard landscaping with sculpture was admired also. The soft banks on the Nashville Road should be included in your landscaping programme. The Deerpark Hotel and Golf Club grounds are excellent in presentation. Congratulations on your success regarding the landscaping of the seventy steps.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

All natural amenities were presented to a standard of excellence on adjudication day, the beach was especially clean and litter free as was the foreshore area of the harbour and all stretches of pier. Your list of wildlife habitats make interesting reading and your initiative regarding interpretive panels is commendable as is the preservation of traditional rights of way. Well done also on the republication of the Guide Book Map of the Peninsula.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in most instances with just small amount of litter in evidence along Balscadden Road. Congratulations on the green school initiative for Scoil Mhuire, we look forward to charting their progress. It is good to note the work undertaken by the Community Employment Scheme workers and the liaison between the committee and Fingal County Council's litter personnel. Your activities concerning the examination of dumping is most valuable.

Tidiness:

Most areas are tidy, well done. Congratulations on the successful outcome of your deputation meeting with the Department of Transport in Fingal County Council and of your work with the Department of the Marine in relation to the east pier and the beach and strand area. The general environs of the net making premises was untidy (close to St. Peter's Terrace). A number of site notices indicate redevelopment will occur within a short time frame so improvements to shabby sites are anticipated.

Residential Areas:

Consideration might be given to featuring a coordinated colour scheme to the roadside facades of residential properties within the general environs of the Evora and Grace O'Malley residential developments. The presentation of a hard surfaced traffic island within the general area was quite stark with weeds sprouting through and along the kerb. Some flower displays here would complement existing tree planting. The majority of residential estates and individual dwellings are presented to a standard of excellence. Your liaison with resident's associations are effective and particularly the organisation of the Tidy Districts Competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The wirescape free status of the harbour road and in the village centre is a bonus. Eventually this will be achieved in residential areas and back streets also. Some unsightly examples of wirescape were noted in residential developments. All of the lampstandards along Balscadden road were in need of painting. Litter bins were presented to a mixed standard and the beautiful litter bin

enclosure at the sculpture across from the Texaco station was admired however it is beginning to look a little neglected in its present location in the midst of construction work. Well done on the new information boards and on their maintenance. Car parking appears to be adequate in the village and car parking spaces are well signposted and delineated. The Community Employment workers are to be commended for the general maintenance of roads and streets, etc.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Howth is one of a village that has a lot to offer, to both visitor and resident, and is doing this in an admirable and professional way. Both the Community Council and the Tidy Towns Committee appear to have a professional approach in the management of Howths environment. Well done on the redevelopment of the old clinic in Main Street; it has been considered for an award.

Second Round Adjudication:

Howth was looking really well on a fine warm afternoon of the 2nd round adjudication. There is a most attractive open feeling and atmosphere to Howth that gives the area a Continental feeling. The fine large grass area by the car park in front of the trawler berths is a great public amenity but it does need more than just one entrance from the car park. The litter problem noted on the Balscadden road noted at the time of 1st round adjudication was not evident on 2nd round adjudication day. However litter was noted in both the car park and large green area at the trawler berths, along the paths near Wrights of Marino, and at the small open space green area opposite Beshoffs. However given the volume of people using the green open spaces the litter level was relatively low. Weed growth at slab joints on pavements opposite the Texaco garage is a problem that needs attention. Howth has a lovely relaxed atmosphere and the overall presentation reflects highly on the work of the Tidy Towns Committee, supporting agencies and associations.