

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rush**

Ref: **648**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **185**

Category: **E**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	26	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>181</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Rush is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission; we note the absence of a planned work programme spanning the next few years and urge you to submit one for next year's competition as it is difficult to make progress without one. Your objectives for your town should be listed in order of priority and set within an appropriate time frame. We note that you receive both financial and practical support from the community on request and that you work in conjunction with statutory bodies. Rush is experiencing rapid growth like most Irish towns and villages. It is important to ensure that amenities and services keep pace with the growth in population and are adequate to serve the needs of all residents. One of the objectives of the Tidy Towns Committee should be to review amenities and services and assess their adequacy in the light of your growing population.

### The Built Environment:

Well done on your contact with Fingal County Council regarding a clean up of derelict buildings on the Main Street. When treated appropriately or redeveloped this should have a positive visual impact. The Michael Collins Bar and Lounge looked very well and most public buildings enjoyed an excellence of presentation also. These included the church, the Arts Centre, the Garda station and others. The majority of shopfronts were reasonably well presented but were unimaginative in the use of colour, signage and window display. Perhaps a shopfront competition could be organised to motivate property owners.

## **Landscaping:**

The Town Park looked wonderful with its nicely landscaped areas and mature trees, some sections of it however appeared to be a little overgrown which was unfortunate. Container flower displays were noted at a number of locations in the town and cognisance has been taken of the Saint Maurs Well clean up for this year. Your plan should include a landscaping plan, identifying areas that would benefit from tree and shrub planting. A greater emphasis should be placed on permanent planting rather than summer bedding as these have year round interest. Try to use native species where possible as these increase wildlife habitat diversity.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The harbour and the beach were superb in presentation, both were clean, picturesque and featured wild birds and wildflowers. Has a wildlife survey been undertaken for the Rogerstown Estuary? We note you are in contact with Fingal County Council to have wildlife display boards installed here but have been disappointed to date. We would like some information on wildlife habitats in Rogerstown, this should be submitted with next year's application and may earn you an improvement in marks under this heading.

## **Litter Control:**

Litter control was reasonably good on adjudication day. There were small outbreaks of litter at a number of points, none of which constituted a serious problem. Further thought should be given to applying for Green Flag status for the school and perhaps participation in the Race Against Waste project by the business community might also be considered.

## **Tidiness:**

Two recycling points were noted, one on the road down to the harbour and a second in the South Strand car park. Dumping was noted at the former whilst one of the receptacles in the latter had been overturned and its contents strewn around the car park; given the size of the receptacle, one can only imagine that it took some serious effort to topple it. Derelict premises have already been referred to, the committee is aware of these and is in a consultation with the local authority regarding the situation. Weed growth is a problem along kerbs, at the base of walls and in side areas and road edges; this suggests neglect.

## **Residential Areas:**

The rapid population growth of rush is reflected in new residential estates in the village and the environs. Your encouragement to local residents groups to take part in the Fingal County Council's Tidy Communities Competition is a good initiative. You should use whatever means available, e.g. newsletter, public media, leaflet drops, information evenings, etc. to encourage residents associations to take responsibility for their own estates and to participate in the Tidy Towns effort. A number of unpainted facades to town houses were noted especially on the approach road to the harbour; could these be either cleaned or painted as appropriate, or at least display colourful window boxes?

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

Street furniture was in need of attention. A number of derelict water pumps were noted and some litter bins were in need of cleaning and / or painting. The wirescape throughout Rush, but particularly along the Main Street was visually obtrusive; hopefully it can be ducted in the not too distant future and attractive lampstandards featured in place of existing unattractive service poles. Road and footpath surfaces in need of attention should be identified and submitted to Fingal County Council for improvement. In line with the recommendations of last year's adjudication, finger post

signs and street signs should be bilingual and provided throughout as appropriate.

**General Impression:**

Rush is a rapidly growing small town with fine amenities which serve the recreational needs of its community; in view of the limitations experienced by the committee which include the lack of funding, the shortage of volunteers, inadequate facilities and more the town still retains much of its old charm. We wish you well for the future.