

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sutton**

Ref: **658**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **209**

Category: **D**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	30	
Landscaping	40	30	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	22	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	
General Impression	10	7	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>209</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Sutton is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. It is good to note that there are so many active members of the committee and that you enjoy success in fundraising and sponsorship both from the local and the business community. Well done also on your liaison with Fingal County Council and local schools. You did not include a copy of your plan covering your goals over the next three to five years and highlighting how you intend to approach the overall development of Sutton; do try to have one prepared for next year as it is difficult to make serious headway within the competition without one. It was good to note signposted Slí na Sláinte walks to Howth, Bull Island and Portmarnock. Well done also on the Corr Castle preservation and restoration and the participation with the Hill Watch Society to clear up local walkways.

### The Built Environment:

The village centre is a most attractive environment with almost all properties enjoying an excellent presentation and with very few inappropriate signs, well done. Flower displays at key points added greatly to attractive shopfronts. The site notice on the derelict building located beside the Permanent TSB office would suggest it is earmarked for redevelopment soon and we look forward to this; the bollards to the carpark here are in need of refurbishment if they are to be retained. The Burrows Road exhibited a certain amount of graffiti in places and weed growth to the roadside edge. Some dumping was in evidence to the side road off the main Howth Road leading down to the Burrows Road; the bridge here was also in need of attention. Public buildings such as school,

church, golf club and others enjoyed an excellent presentation. We look forward to the rehabilitation of the Sutton Dart Station when existing works are completed here.

### **Landscaping:**

Container planting both at the crossroads and throughout the village add welcome colour and seasonal interest, well done. Flowerbeds are beautifully executed also. Landscaping at St. Fintan's Church was especially admired as was flower displays around the base of trees in a residential development just off the Strand Road. Planting at the DART station looked well also. Existing trees are maturing well and green open spaces are being nicely maintained.

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

The foreshore area at the Strand Road junction is being maintained to a high standard and is complemented by the neat green open space here also, well done. The seafront is noted also and is an important amenity facility. Some consideration might be given to identifying the flora and fauna of the area and featuring the results on information panels and brochures, etc. Perhaps this could be undertaken in conjunction with the school as a project. The Claremount Beach at its Sutton end also enjoyed a standard of excellence.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent throughout the village and on approach roads, obviously your weekly clean up is most effective. Well done on involving school children in the An Taisce National Spring Clean-Up. Public meetings to commence the Clean-Up are an excellent initiative. Some litter was noted, mostly on the footpath on the eastern side of the road on entering Sutton from the Dublin Road. Most litter bins were reasonably well presented however the one at St. Fintan's Church was overflowing and could have been the source of a problem.

### **Tidiness:**

Your Bring Bank beside St. Fintan's Cemetery was very tidy on adjudication day and is being considered for the new Repak Bring Bank Award. Well done regarding the spraying of weeds by Fingal County Council, however these should also be removed as they look unsightly when brown. Quite a lot were noted, again particularly along the eastern side of the road on entering from the Dublin approach. A second Bring Bank in the Superquinn carpark was also tidy.

### **Residential Areas:**

All residential developments were presented to a high standard, green open spaces have been nicely maintained, boundary walls and gardens and curtilage areas in general look well. A possible exception again were boundary walls which were drab in appearance located on the eastern side of the approach from the Dublin Road. Many gardens were admired.

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

Reference has already been made to weedy kerbs and surfaces along footpaths. Whilst litter bins appear to be being emptied on a frequent enough basis, their overall presentation is not good and many were in need of cleaning and / or painting. Some road signs were in need of refurbishment, for example a fingerpost for Strand Road was broken and very dirty. Another post at the junction of Strand Road and Carrickbrack Road needs to be repainted. Carparking throughout is well organised and carparking spaces clearly delineated. Lampstandards in the village centre look well and it was good to note the absence of unsightly wirescape. Playing fields were neatly presented at their boundary and entrance.

**General Impression:**

Sutton is a village with high amenity status which enjoys an excellent level of maintenance and presentation. The difficulty regarding the wash up of debris at Strand Road is appreciated as is the difficulty in relation to heavy traffic, however the community appears to be active in overcoming both problems effectively. Well done on your achievements to date, we look forward to your continued participation.