

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyfermot** Ref: **156**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **216**
Category: **H** Date(s): **06/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	216

Overall Development Approach:

Ballyfermot is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included useful support material and made interesting reading indeed. Of particular interest was your Cultural Appreciation Day together with your Walking Day in Ballyfermot and Chapelizod. Congratulations on the opening of your new Leisure Centre and Youth Facility together with the Community Crèche. These developments will make an important contribution to the life of the community. It is good to note that you have the support of statutory bodies and that you involve other community groups in the Tidy Towns initiative. Thank you for your plan, we wish you well in its implementation.

The Built Environment:

Your Civic Centre is a most impressive building and was beautifully presented at the time of adjudication, it has been considered for the architectural award. The majority of public buildings including churches, schools and the Garda Station enjoyed a high standard of presentation also. Many shop fronts have the potential to look really well however their overall presentation is spoilt to a certain extent with thoughtless placement of posters on windows and doors. Encourage shop owners to avoid the use of solid roller shutters at night in favour of the lattice type which allows a view of the window display, it would also enhance the streetscape if internal lighting was featured outside business hours.

Landscaping:

Your roundabout which marks the entrance to the centre of the village is magnificent in presentation and maintenance and makes an important contribution to its streetscape. Be careful regarding growth around the base of trees as this can stunt their growth, they should be kept free of long grass and weeds and ideally should not be planted with flowers either. Container plants located strategically around the village were admired for their colour and profusion, well done. We note with interest your future landscaping plans and

urge you to consider native species of shrubs and trees as these are supportive of wildlife, favour permanent planting rather than bedding plants.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to note your intention to continue to extend the native Holly programme in the grounds of all schools, playing pitches and community buildings; this will certainly attract wild birds and a variety of insects. The presentation of the clubhouse building of the Gaelic Football Club was admired together with a neat and orderly curtilage and landscaping. As you are aware the perimeter railings of many green open spaces are in need of refurbishment. The scope to develop a wildlife trail in areas like The Ranch is noted. Well done on the provision of a Planting Guide to senior citizens who manage most gardens and balcony planting.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good overall throughout Ballyfermot but weak areas included the roadside verge coming in to the town from the N4 along Le Fanu Road near the FAS building and throughout Raheen Park. Your litter poster is creative and visually striking and no doubt plays an important role in curbing the litter problem. It is good to note that you have a litter warden in the town.

Waste Minimisation:

We wish the committee well with their plan to minimise their own waste production by composting organic waste collected in the local area in a number of private initiatives. You have many recycling points throughout Ballyfermot and most are well sign posted. The recycling point at Liffey Gaels was excellent in presentation and its surrounds was free of dumped material. Well done on the Green Schools initiative and on your plans to segregate waste collected during clean ups. We look forward to the provision of attractive high quality recycling facilities.

Tidiness:

A number of shabby entrances to sites were noted which no doubt will be improved over the course of your work programme. A derelict boundary to the green area on Raheen Park was noted also. Sprayed weeds along the curbs near the FAS premises were an unattractive feature of this part of Ballyfermot.

Residential Areas:

The Drumfinn residential development is attractively presented as indeed are most residential areas in Ballyfermot. We look forward to the development of new dwellings in 2008. Continue your work in encouraging residents to pay particular attention to the state of their roadside boundary walls as well as their gardens. Perhaps the Holly Tree programme could be extended to gardens also. Raheen Park featured an unacceptable amount of litter and broken glass at the time of adjudication.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Wide grass verges and mature trees along the Kylemore Road are one of the most attractive features of Ballyfermot and the bus stop here was nicely presented also. Work in progress was noted on the latter road which no doubt will enhance it even further. Your big problem under this heading appears to be the many road nameplates which have been graffitied and the number of signposts and litter bins in need of refurbishment.

General Impression:

Ballyfermot is a town with considerable potential to do well in the competition particularly with new developments coming on board over the next few years. A word of caution is necessary. Greater attention will have to be paid to details such as boundary walls, entrances and as noted the finer details of shop front presentation. The boundary rails across from the Gala premises were admired and should be used as an example where railings are necessary.