

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymun** Ref: **854**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **225**
Category: **G** Date(s): **12/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Ballymun is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a wonderful plan, and other support materials, and were helpful in adjudication. When development has been complete, it is suggested that a map of the area together with appropriate finger post signage be located in the town centre to help visitors negotiate different areas. It is further suggested to have a number of incidental seated amenity areas and parks throughout Ballymun. Walks to Slí na Slainte standard might be developed. Visual amenity features such as gazebos, planted pergolas and water features might be incorporated into incidental seated amenity areas.

The Built Environment:

The vista of Ballymun on entering from the roundabout on the northern approach road is wonderful. Ballymun is truly now a 21st century town. You are of course aware of the finer details, which need to be achieved, for example to ensure that pedestrian handrails are painted together with road signage. Saint Pappins Youth Club premises looks poor, no doubt It is due for renovation. Poppintree Parade is a nice development. Discourage the placement of posters in windows and doors as these can often spoil an otherwise attractive presentation and encourage shop owners to feature internal lighting at night with see through security shutters if the latter as necessary as this will bring light to the streets after the close of business and enhance the streetscape.

Landscaping:

Trees of every age were noted throughout Ballymun and its environs and were accompanied by extensive tracts of green areas. At the time of adjudication, many greens were overgrown. This will have to be addressed in order to perform at a higher level under this heading. An example would be the environs of the Holy Spirit National School. Landscaping at the industrial estate was admired and the colourful hanging

baskets at the Carton residential development were appreciated also. Do try to keep the base of trees, weed and long grass free, as this can stunt their growth. The shaped trees, which featured in the church grounds, were especially admired, together with the roses which were in full bloom.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note the planting of native species in gardens and in particular berried species which will attract wildlife and particularly more species of bird into the area. As a natural progression of this a bird species survey might be undertaken and the results published. Perhaps this could be done in conjunction with the schools and Bird Watch Ireland. Look for opportunities to develop a nature trail as this can enhance the quality of life and recreational amenity in any town or village.

Litter Control:

Plastic bottles were noted on grass verges on the entrance from the northern approach road, in the library car park and at the shops in the town centre around the SuperValu shop. Some dumped timber was noted in the Belclare residential development. You may need to review your litter control activities. Don't forget to segregate litter for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

Heartiest congratulations are extended for your participation in the Global Action Plan and thank you for the submission in relation to this. Recycling facilities were being maintained quite well. However, the recycling point on Poppintree Road looked a bit bleak. Perhaps a little bit of landscaping would soften the appearance of this area, some sign posting would be useful also.

Tidiness:

Reference has already been made to the library in respect of littering, however, the curtilage area here was also quite weedy, which gives an untidy appearance. Try to eliminate outsized advertising hoardings from the town, as these are unsympathetic to the built environment and visual amenity of any settlement. You have a large number of undeveloped sites particularly along Poppintree Road and dumping was a feature in a number of instances also. When development work is complete, there will be a natural progression under this heading. The roadside of the industrial estate (the verges outside) could have been better presented

Residential Areas:

The Gateway View dwellings on the Main Street are attractive and Marewood Crescent together with Hollytree Square and others achieves an excellence in presentation also, their small gardens with a tree in each one being a most attractive feature. The Coultrey development looked well also. A conclusive assessment cannot be made under this heading as there are so many new developments due to come on stream on stream and we look forward to the completion of these.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The car park at the library is in need of resurfacing. Several items of street furniture were in need of attention and graffiti featured on many; try to discourage the display of posters on litter bins etc and as noted above, a map of Ballymun town together with finger post signage for its various amenities, might be featured in the town centre.

General Impression:

Ballymun town is developing as a most attractive settlement and the adjudicator was interested to see it described as Ireland's First Fair Trade Town. We look forward to further developments in relation to this.