

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clontarf & Bull Island** Ref: **1205**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **215**
Category: **G** Date(s): **08/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	215

Overall Development Approach:

Clontarf village and the Bull Island group are welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. It is important that you work from a planned work programme to guide your progress throughout the competition. Your entry should be accompanied a map indicating the projects that you have undertaken and wish to have assessed during adjudication. One of the first things you must decide to do is decide on the boundaries of Clontarf and Bull Island and mark these with name plates or name stones. Clontarf and Bull Island have wonderful amenity features which include not alone the island itself but also St. Ann's Park. Many green areas which are being nicely maintained are an attractive feature of the area. Your recent publication on the history of Clontarf is an excellent initiative and one of which the community can be proud.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings such as churches and schools are beautifully presented and this includes their grounds and curtilage area in general. The civic space in the village centre at the Café with its handsome new stainless steel lamp standards is a fine development and the Café here looks particularly attractive. There are far too many above fascia signs on shop fronts, try to have some of these if not all eliminated. Shop fronts overall are attractively presented, discourage the use of Dutch style awnings in favour of the more traditional straight edged retractable type of canopy.

Landscaping:

The flower displays in the Church of John the Baptist added a wonderful splash of colour at the time of adjudication. The shrubbery on the green located across from the bus garage is to be re-landscaped, it is advisable not to plant any more cordylines as native species with high salt and wind resistance are more

appropriate; these can be easily sourced. A feature such as a water fountain, a sculpture or a specimen tree could be featured on the roadside green to St. Anthony's Church. Recently planted trees within the village centre appear to be well established and complement nicely the new lamp standards in the civic space. The village features many stands of mature trees some of which are specimen trees. In future landscaping programmes try to utilise native species of plants as these are supportive of wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Clontarf and Bull Island is a treasure trove of amenity for the local community and visitors from other areas. The nature reserve of Bull Island is host to many wildlife habitats. Perhaps interpretative panels identifying these could be located at intervals along the Bull wall. The opening times of the Interpretative Centre might be displayed for the information needs of those who regularly use the island for recreation. The promenade walk is another wonderful amenity and street furniture such as seating and lighting are nicely coordinated and well maintained.

Litter Control:

Your group is to be commended on your six years of litter picking activities and the overall appearance of Clontarf village & the Bull Island was one of being litter free. Have you considered segregating the litter collected to reduce, reuse and recycle? The litter bin located at the shops across from the entrance to the Bull Wall was overflowing at the time of adjudication together with one on Vernon Avenue. Litter was noted on the green areas at the Fairview entrance to Clontarf and at one entrance to St. Ann's Park. Perhaps a litter survey might be undertaken to establish the source of the litter so that the problem might be addressed at its root cause.

Waste Minimisation:

Reference has already been made above to the need to segregate litter collected for recycling, reusing and reducing waste. Other activities that could earn points under this heading are composting of green waste, perhaps some flyers could be distributed to households with composting instructions. The business community might also be approached regarding the possibility of identifying ways to reduce the amount of waste produced by businesses, as waste minimisation is the goal; perhaps a waste audit might be undertaken to establish how much is generated and strategies devised for ways of reducing this.

Tidiness:

The derelict swimming baths are a bit of an eyesore, are there plans for future development here? Weedy footpaths were a feature from the Fairview entrance to Clontarf up to the swimming baths. Three oversized advertisement hoardings were noted and ideally should be removed altogether. Work in progress in the village centre and across from the entrance to the Bull Wall at the shops was noted and a certain amount of development untidiness was prevalent, no doubt this will be remedied when construction work has ceased.

Residential Areas:

Clontarf has a wide range of house styles dating from different periods and so the variation in residential developments adds interest and visual amenity. It is important to encourage householders to present their roadside boundary walls and roadside areas to boundary walls to the same high standard as is achieved for their gardens and curtilage area. The small residential development which makes up St. Joseph's Square was neatly and attractively presented, well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As noted above under overall development name plates should be provided at all entrances to Clontarf clearly identifying the boundaries of the village. Some items of street furniture need to be refurbished for example a post box located near the Chinese restaurant is one example. The railing which runs from the entrance to the Bull Wall towards the causeway is in need of refurbishment and the entrance to the car park at St. Ann's along the Clontarf Road could be upgraded also. Car parking throughout the village and environs is orderly. New street furniture along the promenade is attractive. Many roads throughout Clontarf are graced by stands of mature trees and create wonderful avenues with dappled light.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Clontarf and Bull Island is one of a well presented village with amenities that could be the envy of every other village in the country. It is important now to provide signposting and interpretative

panels for these amenities within the village centre.