

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edenmore** Ref: **1316**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **196**
Category: **D** Date(s): **27/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	196

Overall Development Approach:

Edenmore was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

Edenmore is a mainly residential area with houses that appear to date from the late sixties and seventies. Its centre is defined by the shopping centre consisting of a row of shops with the Concorde pub the most prominent business in the complex. There is great potential to work on general appearance here which would lift, not just the complex itself, but also its environs. The school, Scoil Naomh Maoileachlann is wonderfully presented, with fantastic landscaping and a variety of tree species on display. Graffiti is unfortunately a problem as in many urban areas and is seen in many places, but especially shop shutters. The pub has made a great effort with its front - its well painted and has nice hanging baskets and really sets a high standard. The community centre looks like an excellent amenity and it is properly fenced to avoid anti-social behaviour in its precincts, although steps could be taken to soften its appearance. An area now long settled and mature, Edenmore now has terrific opportunity to build on the progress made over the years.

Landscaping:

With the amount of open spaces, Edenmore has great potential to develop any number of landscaping projects that would lift the whole area, especially along the riverbanks which could become a terrific set piece as well as a community amenity. Most of the spaces are currently neat with tightly mown grass interspersed with a few maple and lime trees, so prevalently planted in urban areas. Unfortunately, while speedy growers, these trees are alien to the natural Irish landscape and do not provide food for birds and can be rather dull during the summer months. It is suggested that a newly formed TidyTowns group should prioritise this aspect of TidyTowns by developing a landscape plan in partnership with the City Council and other interested parties.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The potential for landscaping is of course also the potential to introduce new habitats for wildlife, perhaps in conjunction with the school. Sadly, the river is not in the best state and looks practically devoid of life and the banks trimmed so tightly interesting wildlife features are being lost. This situation could be radically changed however, through re-landscaping with native trees and shrubs, combined with setting aside some open space to allow the grass and wildflowers to grow which will encourage insects and food and cover for birds. With proper planning and support Edenmore could lead the way in demonstrating how urban areas can be transformed!!

Litter Control:

Despite the number of residences and through-traffic, litter was only a minor problem throughout the area. This is a wonderful achievement and well done to the council and residents alike. Further marks could be gained in future years under this category if details of ongoing community activities were supplied to the adjudicator.

Waste Minimisation:

Without details of ongoing community projects, it was difficult to assess the extent of progress being made under this category and I would look forward to seeing whether progress has in fact been made on future assessments. However taking into account the existing council facilities and SuperValu's own commitment in this area, I believe a nominal mark is appropriate for this year. Many useful tips on how projects can be developed is contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available for free from the TidyTowns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Tidiness:

In addition to removing graffiti, the main shopping area could be greatly improved by removing the array of drooping electrical cables and wires which make the area look very cluttered. In many areas, such cabling is being placed underground thereby opening up the streetscape and making the area look brighter and cleaner. Otherwise the area appears pretty tidy although a more detailed survey carried out over a few years of participation would focus attention on this issue even more.

Residential Areas:

All the residential areas are well kept showing great pride of place of owners. These areas also provide opportunities for landscaping, not only in individual gardens, but also streets and avenues. A landscaping scheme should address this potential and ensure a unified approach is taken to the whole area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads around and throughout Edenmore are well maintained, although there is very little to identify the area and give it a greater sense of place. A few welcome signs could easily address this along with some directional signs along the approach roads.

General Impression:

There is a lot of untapped potential in Edenmore that could make it a very strong contender in TidyTowns. As stated above, landscaping could be the first objective and the area could be literally transformed in a very short period of time with appropriate support and planning. I hope the local community and businesses take the opportunity to get behind a dedicated TidyTowns effort to the benefit of all. Best of luck in any future endeavours.