

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glasnevin** Ref: **1321**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **202**
Category: **G** Date(s): **28/07/2007**

	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	20
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	202

Overall Development Approach:

Glasnevin 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:

The centre of Glasnevin was taken to be the row of shops along Botanic road. The Botanic Gardens is the greatest visitor attraction in Glasnevin and is a national treasure. The shops look good with their mock Elizabethan facades and many have invested in tasteful shop fronts e.g. the vet and the barbers. The Tolka House pub looks well. The Washerwoman's Hill restaurant looks well but there is graffiti on the shutters of surrounding shops and the ground is littered somewhat. The Met Office is a very distinctive building but its entrance is littered and there is a rather ugly bulk container on its grounds. There is an old derelict house across from Glasnevin Auto whose appearance could be improved.

Landscaping:

The Bon Secour hospital has some nice Scott's pine at the entrance but there is potential to extend landscaping to their grounds. Enterprise Ireland has leafy grounds but all trees are the same species - lime. Botanic road has been recently

planted with Maple. When landscaping, a variety of native species should be used and while maple or lime may sometimes be suitable, their dominance results in streets looking the same with nothing to break the view. Cherry, rowan, birch or hawthorn have colourful flowers in spring and berries in autumn for the birds.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river Tolka runs through Glasnevin and is a potentially rich wildlife habitat. Unfortunately it has been channelised for much of its stretch - turning the river into a gutter with no room for wildlife. Buddlia hanging off the walls soften the aesthetic somewhat but perhaps there are overhanging plants that do this more effectively. Perhaps the greatest habitat in urban situations is private gardens. More could be done to encourage gardening for wildlife by avoiding use of herbicides and pesticides and planting flowers that are particularly attractive to butterflies for instance.

Litter Control:

The centre of town is generally litter free, however there is a lot of litter on the road as one moves towards the Met Office/Enterprise Ireland.

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. There are however plenty of ways in which local communities can assist in tackling this growing problem and many useful tips are contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the TidyTowns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Tidiness:

The town centre looks very well with little by way of clutter or unsightly buildings.

Residential Areas:

The row of houses along St. Mobhi drive has some spectacular gardens. River Gardens is an apartment block that looks very well with appropriate planting. The bins however, are very near the entrance and so are somewhat unsightly.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads and paths appear well maintained. The absence of signage should, however, be addressed, as there is little to identify the area - some welcome signs on approach roads would greatly enhance this aspect.

General Impression:

Glasnevin is a charming area that could do really well in TidyTowns. It does have a litter problem although participation would go a long way towards solving that. It is sad that the river has been altered so much and perhaps a way could be found to soften its corners and perhaps allow some of its plants and animals to thrive.