

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killester** Ref: **986**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **204**
Category: **F** Date(s): **27/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	204

Overall Development Approach:

This area 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. This is especially relevant to Killester which had a fine tradition in TidyTowns for many years.

The Built Environment:

Killester is a very fine Dublin suburb with a rich tapestry of housing types ranging from stately homes to beautiful cottages. The new developments along the Howth Road are stunning with magnificent surrounds and blend magnificently into the existing housing stock. Middle Third is as charming as ever, and an oasis from the busy road nearby. The SuperValu development of a few years ago, greatly improved what used to be a rather bare streetscape, and it continues to impress. St. Bridget's Church was also looking good on the day as was the school opposite.

Landscaping:

The landscaping in Killester consists mainly of many fine mature trees along the roadside and in people's gardens. It should be remembered as most are of the same species and age they will begin to die at the same time, so a major landscaping project to target future planting would be an excellent initiative to reinvigorate

Killester's TidyTowns effort - particularly around the commercial areas which have very little landscaping. New trees should not be maple or lime but native species such as birch, willow or rowan. These provide a variety of shapes and colours as well as providing shelter and food for suburban birds. An increased use of urban features such as the flower pots opposite SuperValu could also be considered.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

With so much development building right up the Dart line, many open spaces no longer exist for wildlife in Killester, although existing gardens still provide necessary support. A survey of the area would quickly identify further potential and provide the basis for targeted action over the coming years.

Litter Control:

With so many people passing through Killester perhaps I should not have been surprised to see quite a bit of litter, particularly in the car park of the shops along the Howth Road and this area would need regular monitoring and maintenance. I am glad to report on the other hand that residential areas were generally litter free.

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, such as promoting best practice in local businesses and schools, encouraging household composting through local workshops and lobbying for access to appropriate recycling facilities. How this has been achieved in other areas, and indeed many other useful tips, is contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the TidyTowns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. There is a bring bank to the rear of SuperValu that looks very well maintained.

Tidiness:

Killester has the potential, with its fine street scape and planting, to be a very tidy area indeed. Unfortunately this is marred by a lot of disorderd parking in front of the shops which makes the area look congested as well as being an obstruction to pedestrians. A parking solution that allows people access the shops as well as create a more civic planned space would greatly enhance this very obvious part of Killester.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas throughout are very well presented and maintained. While it would be unfair to pick out any one area, I have to praise the residents and management personnel of Venetian Hall and adjoining apartment developments which was looking particularly well on the day of adjudication; beautifully landscaped with native birch trees and a duck pond, litter free spotless and well-ordered parking.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads are generally well maintained, some achievement considering the amount of traffic that passes through the area every day. The foot path along by the shops is not in good condition with so many cars crossing it to park, and perhaps no long term solution is possible until a revised parking scheme is introduced. It was noted that there were very few direction signs for Killester on the approach roads and no sense that one is entering the area. Some welcome signs could address this.

General Impression:

Killester is an old, distinctive Dublin suburb that is looking as good as ever. It does have some problems around the shops but these could be relatively easily targeted with a new TidyTowns effort supported by local businesses and the council. I sincerely hope that the community participates again and joins in the celebrations for TidyTowns fiftieth anniversary next year. In any event, I wish all the residents the very best wishes for the future.