

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathgar** Ref: **1330**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **211**
Category: **F** Date(s): **20/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	211

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Rathgar to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Your participation is important to the competition. Rathgar is a largely residential suburb of Dublin. It is recommended that the first thing that the new Committee might do is to agree on the boundaries within which you will work for Tidy Towns. Normally this is about 1 km from the entry centre but in your area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Rathgar and work within these. The supporting documentation for this might then be submitted with your 2008 entry. It is suggested that at an early date that your Tidy Towns Committee considers the preparation of a simple 3 Year Tidy Towns Action Plan for Rathgar that would detail year by year the projects that you wish to undertake for Tidy Towns. When preparing the Plan it would be helpful to talk to any local organisations or agencies that may have an interest in the Competition.

The Built Environment:

The retail area at the major Orwell Avenue road junction was visited and this is the hub of the Rathgar area. Poor signage was noted here in terms of colour, scale and materials used. The shops here appear to have originally been red brick domestic residences the ground floors of which have been converted to retail purposes. At the Church of the Three Patrons it is suggested that some landscaping here would improve the overall presentation.

Landscaping:

Little artificial landscaping was noted in Rathgar. It is suggested to the Tidy Towns Committee that they may wish to discuss with the retailers the provision of a few hanging baskets or window boxes. The use of hanging baskets and flower tubs in carefully selected places adds an interesting splash of colour to any area. However do make sure that this is not overdone. You should be using hanging baskets and tubs to help bring out the

character of the Rathgar area, and they should never be used as an end in themselves.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Marks are available in the competition for the research and promotion of local wildlife and this is something that the committee may wish to consider. However development possibilities here may be rather limited.

Litter Control:

Litter control in Rathgar on the day of the visit was good with some litter noted at retail areas but the situation was not considered to be serious. Some litter was noted along Leinster Avenue.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Rathgar for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in the Rathgar area is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local school or schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. That quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. If you do not already have a Bring Bank Centre or if you have one that is not yet properly signposted from the town centre then such initiatives could gain additional marks for your centre in 2008.

Tidiness:

Some untidy openings off roads in the main retail area were noted and some looked a little untidy. Sometimes it is not appreciated that openings such as this come within the adjudication scope of the competition. Some large scale gable wall advertising was noted in one location in Rathgar and this detracts somewhat from the overall impression of that part of the area. Watch out for the growth of grass and weeds at the base of walls.

Residential Areas:

Most of the residential areas visited were representative of older mature properties that have been well maintained down through the years, many with good landscaping. On Rathgar Avenue a few over-grown front gardens were noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most of the main roads are tree lined and looked impressive in spite of very heavy traffic volumes.

General Impression:

Rathgar is an impressive area which has the potential to do well in the Tidy Towns Competition. Good luck with your 2008 projects.