

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rialto** Ref: **752**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **219**
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	219

Overall Development Approach:

Rialto is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your Draft Area Action Framework Plan and, in particular, your new Rialto Tidy Towns Plan 2007 to 2010 and supporting photographs, all of these helped in the adjudication of the village. The three year plan is a vital document to making real and substantial progress under the competition as not only has it identified your immediate priorities, it also provides a platform to build on for future years. Each year this plan should be reviewed and updated identifying the work that has been completed, and the work still outstanding for the following year. Not only will this help everybody involved maintain their focus, it will also highlight both to yourselves and the adjudicators, the great work being carried out in Rialto, and of course attract even more well deserved marks as it is implemented over the coming years. The before and after photographs of the roundabout are quite stunning and are illustrative of the progress being made. It is good to note the level of environmental awareness in the village by all groups particularly resident groups. Well done on your partnership approach with bodies such as Dublin City Council and Waterways Ireland.

The Built Environment:

The overall standard of presentation of public buildings is very good and your heritage buildings are nicely presented also. A possible exception is the Community Centre which could be either cleaned or painted together with its boundary wall. Encourage shop owners to pay more attention to the overall presentation of their shop fronts, for example the thoughtless positioning of posters in windows and doors can spoil an otherwise good presentation. Above fascia signage should also be eliminated. There are far too many signs above fascial level on the Centra premises. Shop keepers might also be encouraged to utilize see through shutters and feature internal lighting at night to enhance their streetscapes. The Windsor Rialto is very well presented in respect of its curtilage area and other businesses might be encouraged to follow suit.

Landscaping:

The stand of mature trees from Rialto Street to the canal are quite stately in their appearance, many stands of trees of varying ages were noted throughout the area, well done. Do ensure that future planting is with native species as this is supportive of wildlife. Flower displays at the Sacred Heart Memorial are colourful and flower displays in gardens were admired also

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the ongoing promotion of wildlife initiatives in the area involving working in participation with local schools and other educational bodies. Your link with the educational and audit programme run in conjunction with the National Environment and Educational Center in Wicklow sounds interesting. Rialto is blessed given its proximity to the canal and it is good to note your liaison with the Heritage Officer in Dublin City Council and Waterways Ireland to discuss ongoing management and maintenance of the canal side area and its diverse wildlife habitats. We wish you every success with the installation of wildlife interpretive panel and the placement of bird feeders. The canal walk is a wonderful amenity and is being maintained to an excellent standard. Whilst the playing fields enjoy good maintenance, the clubhouse here looked quite poor.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good overall in Rialto, with there being little evidence of indiscriminate littering, crisp bags were noted outside the Charlie Byrnes premises and soft drinks cans at the Bird Flanagan. A serious litter black spot was, however, Dolphin House. Your liaison with Dublin City Council on street cleaning and sweeping is obviously effective and we would like to hear more of your work with the school on identifying sites for additional litterbins. It is important to segregate litter collected for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

We wish you every success in acquiring a recycling facility at an appropriate site within the village. We note your aims to minimize your own waste production by composting organic waste collected in a number of private unmarked areas. Well done on the Green Flag initiative with schools which of course involves segregation of litter amongst other initiatives.

Tidiness:

Thank you for your enclosures including photographs regarding clean- up work parties of leaves and other elements of untidiness and well done to all who participated in these work teams. Sprayed weeds can look as unsightly as unsprayed ones especially when they are rotting, and should be removed from along curbs and the base of walls. The overall appearance of the village centre was one of tidiness, however as you are aware there are a number of sites in need of improvement.

Residential Areas:

Well done on your efforts to involve as many residence associations as possible in the Tidy Towns initiative. Rialto enjoys a good variety of housing styles from different periods of time. No doubt the redevelopment of Fatima Mansions and Dolphin's House will enhance the appearance of Rialto substantially. Several gardens in the area were attractively presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

A number of stretches of road and footpath are in need of resurfacing, however we acknowledge that this is outside the scope of the committee to address and understand the important role of Dublin City Council in this regard. There are of course many well surfaced areas within the village. It was good to note the wirescape free aspect of the main street (South Circular Road) however side streets looked quite bad due to the visual impact of overhead service cables, an example being Rialto Street. Your work in back areas, particularly the evidence produced by photographs, is acknowledged, well done.

General Impression:

Rialto is an attractive village with important heritage buildings and natural amenities. Your greatest need in the short term would be to improve the presentation of commercial properties, particularly in relation to shop front presentation.

