

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballybrack** Ref: **168**  
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **234**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **09/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	18
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>234</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Ballybrack is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission with support material. Well done on your partnership with local schools and for all of the work that has been accomplished for this year's competition. The village lacks clearly defined boundaries and 'Welcome' stones with accompanying landscaping at access points are suggested such as the one marking the entrance to Shankill. Ballybrack has some wonderful scenic views, both of Killiney Hill and of the Sea on Station Road. The village has potential to be successful in the competition and we wish you well for the future.

### The Built Environment:

Well done on work achieved under this heading since last year's competition including the Village Improvement Scheme and the completion of Ridge Hall House. The banner should be removed from the fascia of Credit Union House as it was quite slack and therefore illegible. A number of attractive buildings were noted within the village centre, however do encourage business premises to minimize thoughtless positioning of posters in window and door displays and to feature internal lighting at night with see through shutters to enhance the streetscape and encourage window shopping.

### Landscaping:

Public art on the hard surfaced landscaped area at the crossroads is an attractive feature of the village centre. Young trees throughout Ballybrack appear to be maturing well and new landscaping to the roadside perimeter of the Linear Park will hopefully thrive. Weed growth was noted around the base of young trees on Commons Road which will stunt their growth. The tree lined avenue in Clifton Park is most gracious in appearance. Ensure that future planting is of native species as this is supportive of wildlife.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

We wish you every success in the installation of an interpretive panel on the ecology of the area of scientific interest on the dual carriageway and the possibility of creating a wild grass area around the dolmen on the Shangannagh Road. Some consideration might also be given to undertaking a wildlife audit within the village with a view to promoting awareness and also protecting wildlife from future development. Your Linear Park is a most handsome feature and should feature a flora and fauna interpretive panel at its entrances; a nature trail might also be created; school children might be encouraged to participate in this aspect of the competition.

**Litter Control:**

Litter control was good in some areas but quite bad in others. For example, in grass verges near the station plastic bottles were a feature and in the hard surfaced amenity area in the village centre and along the main street. A fair amount of litter was spotted on the lowers section of the Shangannagh Road especially on the recently cut banks where old litter was exposed. Cromlech Fields was quite littered as was Clifton Park. Your litter picking activities should include the segregation of litter for recycling.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling point located across from the station is being neatly maintained. Other activities under this heading might include a waste audit to identify the volume of waste generated and to devise strategies to reduce it. Composting seminars might be undertaken and promoted to households throughout the area.

**Tidiness:**

Your initiative to involve your local authority in tackling the problem of graffiti within Ballybrack is acknowledged and appreciated and we wish you every success in this regard. Weed growth was a feature of a number of locations but most importantly on the hard surfaced open space marking the entrance to Dale View Park. Weed growth was also present within the environs of Station Road. A development site featured tidy hoarding to its roadside perimeter and did not present a problem under this heading.

**Residential Areas:**

Stone walls are an attractive characteristic feature of Ballybrack and were admired throughout. Weather stained brick roadside boundary walls on Wyattville Road are in need of attention. Keep up the efforts to have residents take responsibility for grassed areas outside of their boundary walls, a particularly problematic one was noted near the roundabout at the top of Church Road during adjudication. Housing estates were neatly presented with attractive name stones.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road and footpath surfaces were generally good, however, there were a few exceptions; the open wire mesh at the DART station looked a little tatty, however it did allow a scenic sea view. The wirescape free aspect of the village core together with attractive lamp standards and bollards was admired. Nameplates or name stones should mark entrances to Ballybrack from all the major access points. You are referred to the attractive nameplates used by Shankill.

**General Impression:**

The overall appearance of Ballybrack is quite favourable and its scenic views are perhaps one of its best features. A greater appreciation of what the village has to offer might be achieved with the more frequent location of amenity maps on weather proof and vandal proof interpretive panels. Keep up the work on the elimination of graffiti and weeds.