

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boosterstown**

Ref: **1344**

County: **Dublin (Dun
Laoghaire-Rathdown)**

Mark: **227**

Category: **F**

Date(s): **19/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	227

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Booterstown to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition; your participation is important to Tidy Towns. 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 Booterstown 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 Booterstown 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:

In the centre of Booterstown the Old Punch Bowl stands out for its good colour scheme and interesting window detailing. The lettering here is also in scale with the building and is simple and distinctive. The Dart Station is a modern building and a functional one and general tidying up in the car park area is recommended. A development site was noted beside the Dart Station car park and work seemed to be underway on the day of adjudication. The site itself looked quite untidy. The local Youth Club seems to occupy what may have been an old Church and if so it is great to see an older building being used for a modern productive purpose. The presentation of the small retail area near Woodbine Park looked a little plain and might be improved by the addition of some hanging baskets or small landscaped areas.

Landscaping:

The Park area opposite Booterstown Hall has beautifully maintained grass areas and what a lovely place it is

to walk and spend some time. The small seating area to the back of the bus stop needs to be improved; just cosmetic work is required – re-varnish the seats and remove all litter and weed growth. The area with the three seats at the Booterstown Nature Reserve was excellently present in every way.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was a little disappointing at the Booterstown Nature Reserve not to find an information panel with some local wildlife information. A similar panel could also be provided in the Booterstown Park further along the road. The Nature Reserve is a really beautiful area and a lot of birds were present on adjudication day. Has any consideration been given to providing public access out along the concrete raised platform that runs towards the Dart line here?

Litter Control:

Litter was noted in the area of the Dart Station car park and at the footbridge over the Dart line. Some litter was noted in the marsh area also. Apart from these problem areas litter control was reasonably good on adjudication day.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre was poorly presented with bad graffiti, weed growth and a general untidy presentation. The official Bring Bank signage was also missing. 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 Booterstown 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 your 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. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses in the Booterstown area to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact

Tidiness:

Some of the trees overhanging the footpath along by the marsh area need to be trimmed back. What about opening up some gaps in the trees here so that the marsh area below the road can be observed? Some roadside kerb weeds were noted along Glenomena Park. Graffiti was present in a few areas including on one of the Dart Station platforms. At the sea end of Trimleston Avenue graffiti was noted. In the Park area there is concrete building at the southern end and a lot of graffiti was present and graffiti was again noticed on the wall of a small building behind the Bring Centre.

Residential Areas:

The presentation of Fosterbrook in many respects represented best practice and the presentation of the large grass areas was exceptionally good. The very heavy landscaping around the various apartment blocks has effectively softened the impact of the development here. Nearby Seamount Apartments represented a similar visual standard. Some verge grass needed to be cut at Seafield Road and Seafield Close, while at Woodbine Avenue weed growth at the base of some of the trees here needed attention. Along Merrion Road some well presented older red brick houses caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads to Booterstown were well presented and in some instances mature trees complimented this presentation.

General Impression:

Booterstown is an extremely attractive area with good potential in the Tidy Towns Competition. Good luck with your projects for 2008.