

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Carrickmines** Ref: **1336**  
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **219**  
Category: **F** Date(s): **16/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>219</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Carrickmines to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is important to the competition and the adjudicator would like to wish you every possible success in the future. It is recommended that the first thing that the new Committee might do is to agree on the boundaries within which Carrickmines will work for Tidy Towns. Normally this is about 1 km from the town centre but in the Carrickmines area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Carrickmines and work within these. The supporting documentation for this might then be submitted with your 2008 entry. To help you in your planning for Tidy Towns it will help your work if you prepare a simple 3 Year Tidy Towns Action Plan. This should detail year by the year the various projects that you wish to undertake and any estimates of project costs of available. Simplicity is the key to this Plan and it can be prepared by your Tidy Towns Committee in consultation with any local organisations and agencies that may be appropriate.

### **The Built Environment:**

Carrickmines Lawn Tennis Club is a well presented premises where good landscaping around the various buildings adds to the overall presentation. The fine mature trees here area an important feature. The Church of Ireland Church (Tullow) is a really beautiful building built in warm Wicklow Granite. It may be worth considering the provision of just two tubs of shrubs at the doorway area using plant colours that will work well with the stone.

### **Landscaping:**

Good landscaping is a strong feature of Carrickmines and a well landscaped area was noted at the Brennanstown cross-roads. Year round planting at landscaped areas is generally more successful in an urban area than the provision of summer bedding plants only. It also reduces the on-going maintenance

requirement. Excellent roadside landscaping caught the eye at Sonas 19 in Brennanstown Vale estate. At the junction of Kerrymount Avenue and Claremount Road very good landscaping here stands out.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

In many areas this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All areas have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that the Carrickmines Tidy Towns Committee would consider the examination of the wildlife potential of the area, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly. The starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. This is a project that might be appropriate for perhaps 2009 or 2010 under your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan suggested above.

### **Litter Control:**

With the exception of Glenamuck Road litter control appears to be a reasonably strong aspect of the Carrickmines area. Quite bad litter was noted along the Glenamuck Road and it must also be remembered that this is a very heavily trafficked road. Litter was also seen along the kerb-side in places in Brennanstown Vale estate. The issue of litter control should be considered in your Tidy Towns Plan and a meeting with the Local Authority may be useful in this regard.

### **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 Carrickmines 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 reduction of domestic waste through community guidance is another aspect that the Carrickmines Tidy Towns Committee might also consider. 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 schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses 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:**

At the Brennanstown cross-roads a large yellow steel unit was noted and the adjudicator wondered if this is to be a permanent fixture. If this is so then screening using appropriate materials, ideally timber, is strongly recommended. A small steel box perhaps used for traffic light control was noted at the same cross-roads and the graffiti here needs attention. In Brennanstown Vale some dumped timber at one of the turning bays should be removed. Very bad kerb-side weed growth was noted at one location in this estate just before the final turning area. Graffiti on the wall at the entrance to Hainault Road should be removed.

### **Residential Areas:**

A number of the housing estates in Carrickmines were visited and generally the standard was very good with fine mature landscaping in both private and public areas. Good roadside verges in the estates visited were also an eye catching feature. With the exception of weed growth at some of the roadside kerbs Brighton Avenue is a good example of best practice in terms of presentation. Brennanstown Vale is another estate where good presentation standards seem to be the norm. The central landscaped area at Carrickmines Wood and Oaks was really well designed and presented. There is a good mixture here of older houses and apartments. The fine high stone wall by Carrickmines Avenue along the side of the Cabinteely House (?) property is a fine feature of this estate. The triangular landscaped area at Pavillion Gate was very well maintained.

The following recommendations are offered by the adjudicator who suggests that the Tidy Towns Committee might bring these points to the attention of all estates in Carrickmines.

- Road boundary walls will probably need to be painted twice each year especially on busy roads.
- Gable end walls though sometimes difficult to paint should be painted when the rest of the house is being painted.
- Timber fencing will require treatment at least twice per year.
- All estates should be encouraged to provide entrance name signs and directional signage within the estate.

- Green open space grass areas will need to be cut frequently if a quality presentation is to be achieved. Remember that grass will probably have to be cut back from the top of kerbing by hand. The provision of a few well chosen trees can often transform an open space.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The main problem area in terms of roads in the area is the Glenamuck Road which is quite narrow and seems to take heavy traffic volumes. Roadside stone walls here need to be repaired and the verge areas were generally quite untidy with an accumulation of consolidated mud that needs to be removed. Some of the roadside kerbing will need to be replaced. Very bad weed growth at roadside walls detracted from the general impression of this road. Kerrymount Avenue really impressed the adjudicator where the fine mature trees and beautifully presented roadside hedging were excellently presented. An attractive grove of tall trees at the junction of Joyce Avenue and Claremount Road is most attractive. Along Hainault Road some of the roadside verges needed to be cut while at the entrance to Hainault Park the name signed needed to be repainted.

**General Impression:**

Carrickmines is an attractive area where the main strengths are very good public and private landscaping and generally attractive roads. The adjudicator would like to wish you well with your plans for 2008 when we look forward to revisiting Carrickmines.