

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Churchtown**

Ref: **758**

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

Mark: **186**

Category: **F**

Date(s): **18/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>186</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Churchtown to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Your participation is important to the competition. 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 Churchtown 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 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 main aspects of the built environment in the core area of Churchtown are the Mount Carmel Hospital, the School and the Golf Courses. The Little Company of Mary building beside the road on Braemor Park caught the adjudicator's attention. Here the combination of straight and curved elements works very well. The presentation of the closed Texaco Garage on Churchtown Road Upper would be improved if the plain timber sheeting used as hoarding was painted an appropriate colour pending site redevelopment. The fine high stone bridge so well seen from Patrick Doyle Road represents an important piece of history now put to a new use with Luas.

### **Landscaping:**

Little formal landscaping was noted in Churchtown. If you are considering developing new landscaped areas in Churchtown do keep the issue of on-going maintenance in mind. Ideally you should consider year-round

planting that will look well at any time of the year. Where appropriate some hanging baskets and flower tubs can be effective but they should not be over-provided at any one location.

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

The Golf Courses in Churchtown provide some cover and feeding for wildlife and this is an aspect of the competition for which marks are awarded for the research and promotion of local wildlife. Many committees have started out by having some research done on the local wildlife from which they have been able to build a successful wildlife development programme. Churchtown Tidy Towns might like to consider this approach. The River Dodder should also form part of the Survey area as this will be another important area for wildlife.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control generally was quite good but of course there are exceptions to that statement. Bad litter was noted along Patrick O'Keefe Road and on the southern end of Churchtown Road Lower. It is suggested that the Churchtown Tidy Towns Committee develops a litter control plan for the Churchtown area as part of your overall Tidy Towns Plan. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play. Your plan should include such issues as surveying the litter bins that you have in your community and their adequacy, clean up days and the role of your local schools. Has your Tidy Towns Committee considered organising a litter survey to establish the generators of litter in your area? It is most important that litter bins are placed in close proximity to the largest generators of litter. The regular emptying of a litter bin is of course essential. Some litter bins may need replacement and this should be discussed with your Local Authority Engineer. Do remember that there are many different designs for litter bins. Some designs are more suitable for some locations than others.

### **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 Churchtown 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 Churchtown 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 in the general Churchtown 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. 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:**

Quite bad graffiti was noted at the ESB sub-station on Patrick Doyle Road and on the concrete walls in the Mill Race area of Churchtown. Graffiti is the single biggest tidiness problem noted by the adjudicator. Weed growth at roadside kerbs was a problem also on the southern end of Churchtown Road Lower and in some of the housing estates visited.

### **Residential Areas:**

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

- 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. Some of the estates in Churchtown already have signage but in some cases it needs to be washed.
- 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.
- Areas to the back of estates can sometimes become dumping areas for cut grass and other materials.

- Simple landscaping at individual houses can often be very effective if the proper trees and shrubs are planted.

- By their nature estates can sometimes have litter control problems and this must be addressed by each individual estate in the town.

It is also suggested that the Churchtown Tidy Towns Committee might like to consider the possibility of running a Tidy Estates Competition involving the estates in the area. It is likely that you will be able to find a local sponsor or sponsors who would be prepared to fund the prize fund. The prizes should ideally be in the form of vouchers for estate maintenance equipment or for landscaping.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Braemor Road and Churchtown Road Upper were well presented and despite heavy traffic volumes looked well on adjudication day. The middle section and northern end of Churchtown Road Lower have good potential for improved presentation and especially along by the Milltown Golf Course where verges were poorly presented on that side of the road. Quite often the regular cutting of existing verges can transform a stretch of road.

### **General Impression:**

The adjudicator would like to wish Churchtown well in the 2008 Tidy Towns Competition when we look forward to reading of your plans and seeing your work on the ground.