

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonskeagh** Ref: **1345**
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **213**
Category: **F** Date(s): **20/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	213

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Clonskeagh to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition and the Clonskeagh entry is important to the competition. Clonskeagh is an interesting mix of various elements – residential, business, retail and educational. 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 Clonskeagh 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 the Clonskeagh area 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. It is also suggested to the Tidy Towns Committee that they might consider getting the University involved in their Tidy Towns activities since they are such important stakeholders in the area.

The Built Environment:

The Clonskeagh Hospital entrance area off the Clonskeagh Road is a good example of excellence in presentation. The well maintained landscaping at the entrance and in the grounds provides a good introduction to this facility. Ashtons Bar & Bistro down the road stands out but the adjudicator was of the view that the frontage was a little cluttered with eight lights. Richview Office Park was another example of good presentation for others to follow. Once again well thought out landscaping provides an excellent setting for a business environment. The combination of Wicklow Granite walls and red brick at the entrance works well. The good colour scheme used by the AIB premises also caught the eye of the adjudicator.

Landscaping:

The sloping landscaped area at Ashtons Bar & Bistro was excellently presented as the grass had been carefully cut and the planting very well maintained. Worthy of note is the fact that the grass had been cut back from the top of the kerb-stones here. The adjudicator is of the view that it is probably better to have no landscaping than have badly maintained landscaping after the first enthusiasm has died away. The UCD properties were extremely well landscaped and the presentation of the grounds along both sides of Wynnsward Drive was among the best that this adjudicator has examined in recent years. Here the combination of grass, trees, shrubs and well cut hedging works really well together and this is one of the characteristics of good landscaping. If you are considering developing new landscaped areas 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.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The UCC grounds and the River Dodder have great potential for wildlife and Clonskeagh is so lucky in this respect. It is suggested that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the wildlife potential of these areas, 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. Before you start it may be useful to have some discussions with the appropriate interests in the University. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Clonskeagh area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your chosen research areas in Clonskeagh and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year. Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in these area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. Ultimately your objective is to encourage the existing wildlife to stay in your area and encourage new species to move in. This can only be done by creating an awareness of the feeding and shelter needs of the various species in the area. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who might also be willing to get involved. As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter control based on the adjudication visit was generally very good and it is important to try and maintain that standard year round. Indeed litter control issues should really form part of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan.

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 the Clonskeagh Tidy Towns Committee 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 Clonskeagh 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 Clonskeagh 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. The University may well have a role also and you might also discuss this with them.

Tidiness:

The Clonskeagh area proved to be quite tidy on the day of the adjudication visit based on an initial inspection.

Residential Areas:

There are not many estates in Clonskeagh in comparison to other areas of similar size and those visited by the adjudicator were of a similar standard to many others visited in south County Dublin. Problems noted included road boundary walls that needed to be painted, and some grass margins that needed to be cut.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Clonskeagh Road, Roebuck Road and Dundrum Road were well presented in terms of overall impression including road surfaces.

General Impression:

The adjudicator who had not visited Clonskeagh for many years was impressed with the fact that over-development has thankfully not really taken over. Good luck with your projects for 2008.