

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Deansgrange**

Ref: **1331**

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

Mark: **188**

Category: **E**

Date(s): **17/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	188

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Deansgrange to the 2007 Tidy Towns competition, and your entry is important to Tidy Towns. Deansgrange has basically developed around a cross-roads which today forms the hub of the area. It is recommended that the first thing that the new Committee might do is to agree on the boundaries within which Deansgrange will work for Tidy Towns. Normally this is about 1 km from the town centre but in the Deansgrange area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Deansgrange and work within these. The supporting documentation for this might then be submitted with your 2008 entry.

The Built Environment:

The built environment in Deansgrange is an interesting combination of new modern buildings and older properties. The new car showrooms along Deans Grange Road represent the architectural expression of the new Deansgrange. Properties like the Mid'Way Bar represent the older village. Projecting signs some of which do not seem to have a retail necessity are a problem in this area. Many Tidy Towns Committees throughout Ireland have done excellent work in encouraging the replacement of such signs with signs that are more visually appropriate. Apart from projecting signs some of the signage in Deansgrange fixed to fascia boards is somewhat outdated in terms of materials and lettering scale. Deansgrange Cemetery developed from 1861 dominates the area and the Tidy Towns Committee may wish to consider the erection of some informational panels in the area giving the history of this nationally important Graveyard. The Church of Ireland Church is a beautiful building in warm Wicklow Granite.

Landscaping:

Little formalised landscaping was noted in Deansgrange. Some landscaping was noted at Grange Garage at

the cross-roads. The provision of window boxes and some flower tubs in the core area helps to brighten up the built environment. In many areas several small landscaped areas may be more effective visually than one large area that may be difficult to maintain. 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:

Based on an initial visit it seems that there may not be a lot of scope for the development of the wildlife and natural amenities aspect of Tidy Towns in the Deansgrange area. As valuable marks are available for work under this category it is suggested that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the local wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

Litter Control:

Quite a lot of litter was noted in the pub car park to the rear of the premises. Otherwise litter control was reasonably good taking into consideration the daily volume of traffic that passes through the cross-roads area. However litter was noted at the entrance to Clonkeen Park and at Grange Grove.

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 Deansgrange 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 Deansgrange 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 Deansgrange 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:

At the Mid'Way Bar the poles to the front need to be repainted and black might be a good colour to consider. Graffiti was present on adjudication day at the wall at the Grange Garage at the cross-roads. The adjudicator is not in favour of the display of retail goods on the pavement as was noted in Deansgrange. Apart from looking rather untidy such displays can cause major difficulties for people in wheelchairs or the visually disabled.

Residential Areas:

A number of housing estates in Deansgrange were visited and quite a variation in standard was noted. Graffiti on the walls at the entrance to Brookville Park needs early attention as do the extremely poor road surfaces noted here. At Springville Avenue some good grass areas were noted but there appears to have been an over-use of weed-killer here. Weed growth at roadside kerbs observed at Grange Grove needs permanent treatment. 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 Deansgrange. - 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.
- 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.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The four main roads in Deansgrange were reasonably well presented given the urban environment involved.

General Impression:

The adjudicator would like to wish the new Deansgrange Tidy Towns Committee well in their work in the years ahead and we look forward the visiting again during adjudication in 2008.