

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Goatstown**

Ref: **1343**

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

Mark: **189**

Category: **E**

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

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	189

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Goatstown to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition and your participation is important to Tidy Towns. Goatstown is largely a residential area in south County Dublin developed from the mid 1950s. 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 the Goatstown area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Goatstown 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 Goatstown 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 Goat dating from 1741 is a landmark premises in Count Dublin and was found to be attractively presented on adjudication day. Across the road the Shell garage was also presented with care and the landscaping beside the pavement was an attractive addition. The Church of Ireland Church on Taney Road is a fine building but some further landscaping here might be discussed with the church authorities. The large signage at the junction across the road from The Goat is rather out of scale with these retail properties which may represent some of the older houses in Goatstown.

Landscaping:

Little formal landscaping was noted in Goatstown outside of housing estates. . 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. The provision of some well maintained landscaping at The Goat road junction might be discussed by the Tidy Towns Committee.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Marks are available under this aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition for the research and promotion of local wildlife. It is recommended that the Tidy Towns Committee discusses this issue to see if there are any project possibilities that they can consider for implementation.

Litter Control:

Litter was noted in some of the estates at the Euro Car Park on the left just before the Luas Bridge. It is suggested that your Tidy Towns Committee develops a litter control plan for the Goatstown 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 the Goatstown area 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 the Goatstown 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 bins if 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 Goatstown 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 Goatstown 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. 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:

The steel railings at the road junction at The Goat need to be painted perhaps in a bright colour so that they can become a feature of that part of Goatstown. Very bad weed growth was noted at the railings at the Off-License opposite The Goat. Along the side of The Goat premises to Taney Road posters for a Circus had been attached to the white fencing and the overall effect looked quite untidy to the adjudicator. At the top of Goatstown Road just before the road junction a badly overgrown verge needed attention.

Residential Areas:

The new apartment developments on Goatstown road are of an interesting design that is pleasing on the eye, and it is great to see some imagination being used in such developments. The use of light brick here is quite effective. It is suggested that your committee might like to consider the possibility of running a Tidy Estates Competition involving the estates in the Goatstown 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. The following general housing estate recommendations are offered by the adjudicator who suggests that the Tidy Towns Committee bring these points to the attention of all estates in Goatstown.

- 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 in Goatstown 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.
- 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:

Generally the presentation of the main roads in Goatstown was good with the exception of some verge areas that needed to be cut on a more regular basis.

General Impression:

It is suggested to the Tidy Towns Committee that they focus initially on the road junction area at The Goat and on developing the standard of the housing estates in Goatstown. The adjudicator would like to wish you well with your 2008 projects for Tidy Towns.