

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leopardstown** Ref: **1337**
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **197**
Category: **D** Date(s): **17/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	197

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Leopardstown to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is important to the competition and we 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 Leopardstown will work for Tidy Towns. Normally this is about 1 km from the town centre but in the Leopardstown area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Leopardstown and work within these. The supporting documentation for this might then be submitted with your 2008 entry. It is also 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:

Leopardstown is quite a built up area and redevelopment continues. The area at the entrance to the Leopardstown Golf Centre is quite attractively presented and some good landscaping was noted at the Texaco Garage. The Ivy on the front façade of this building helps to soften the impact of the building. Nearby the lettering at The Lounge caught the for its simplicity and good choice of colour. The old green Telephone Box is a great reminder of the past and your committee should talk to Telecom about the possibility of having it restored. The plastic sheeting needs to be replaced with glass. At the Leopardstown Valley Shopping Centre the green façade and timber uprights needed to be repainted in green. Good signage was noted nearby at Molloy's – again the use of simple clear lettering is very effective. The Leopardstown Shopping Centre is a fine modern development with a fine feeling of open space. The Dunnes Stores building uses a very good choice of colour tones, while the low level design of this building suits the site perfectly. The Race Course built in 1888 is of course the centre piece of the Leopardstown area.

Landscaping:

Some good formalised landscaped areas were noted especially along Torquay Road at the Westminster Road junction. The stone, grass and shrubs here together with the tall trees provide a very attractive landscaped area. At the Leopardstown Valley Shopping Centre car parking area the landscaping needs a lot of attention. Some of the areas originally planted have now been worn down to bare earth and look uninviting. Some of the surviving shrubs need to be thinned out also. Some of the roadside grass areas here needed to be cut.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Sports Ground on Ballyogan Road is a great public amenity as of course is the Race Course. Marks are awarded in Tidy Towns for the development and promotion of the wildlife in an entry area and this might be considered by your committee.

Litter Control:

On the day of the adjudication visit litter control seemed to be reasonably good apart from litter in some of the housing estates visited. A little litter was noted at the retail area at near the entrance to the Golf Centre and on Ballyogan Road.

Waste Minimisation:

The Recycling Park on the Ballyogan Road is well laid out and the landscaped area along by the entrance impressed. 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 Leopardstown 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 Leopardstown 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 in and businesses in Leopardstown 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:

The Ballyogan Road was quite untidy along much of its length due to the ongoing road widening project here and this has not reflected in a negative way on the marks allocated under this category. Though at the Carrickmines end of this road some untidy domestic areas were noted.

Residential Areas:

A sample of the housing estates in the Leopardstown area was visited. At The Birches excellent Granite walls combined well with mature trees and well maintained hedging. Some weed growth was noted at the base of some walls. The Brighton Lodge housing area set back from Torquay Road was attractively presented with good landscaping. At Castle View the presentation overall was quite poor with long weed growth and debris at the verges. Good mature trees at Glenbourne Road and Glenbourne Way are an important feature but graffiti on ESB units detracted from the overall presentation. It was the extensive well maintained and landscaped green areas at Glencairn that impressed. 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 the Leopardstown area - - 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:

Torquay Road was excellently presented and the Granite walls and hedging along here gave character to this road. Ballyogan road will be transformed when the present road widening scheme is completed. The provision of appropriate landscaping at roundabouts might be discussed by the Tidy Towns Committee with the Local Authority.

General Impression:

Leopardstown is an important suburb of County Dublin that attracts many visitors to the annual Race Meetings. Your Tidy Towns Committee therefore has an important role to play in assisting in the presentatiuon of the area to the best possible effect. Good luck with your projects for 2008.