

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sandycove**

Ref: **177**

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

Mark: **251**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **10/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Sandycove is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included excellent photographs and walking trail map, which facilitated the adjudication process; the other items of support material were useful also. We note the absence of a planned work program and urge you to forward one with next year's submission. Sandycove is a beautiful small town in an enviable location and with a handsome built environment. It is good to note that you work in conjunction with statutory bodies, business interests, residence associations and liaise with the schools also, all of which will help you to make greater strides towards your goal of being one of Ireland's Tidiest Towns.

The Built Environment:

The majority of business premises are nicely presented however a number stand out for the excellence of their presentation particularly at night, these include Eminence, Audrey Taylor, Martin Hudson; these premises feature internal lighting at night without the use of security grills and have a positive visual impact on the streetscape which also of course facilitates window shopping after business hours. Other nicely presented shop fronts include Eamonn's Book Shop, The Wine Buff, Buckleys Gallery, and Bloomsday Flowers. The security shutters on the Cabello premises are unattractive and it was surprising to see the dated plastic neon fascia sign on Teddys. Churches and schools are enjoying good maintenance and work in progress was noted to the church on Summerhill Road.

Landscaping:

Flower displays were colourful and profuse and brightened up an otherwise wet summer's day. All of your

green open spaces are being nicely maintained and those which featured public art were particularly appreciated. The small park at Otranto Place is charming. There is no need to plant flowers at the base of trees (as was the case on Glashule Road) as these can stunt their growth a little. Well done on the summer planting and in particular on your walnut sapling planted to mark the Peace Process in Northern Ireland which occurred earlier this year. We wish you well in your plans for the future and in particular the involvement of the 500 pupils to plant a perennal bulb. It is good to note that berried bushes have been chosen for wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations to all involved in the designation of Sandycove Beach with the Green Coast Award in 2007, this really is a fine achievement and one of which the community should be rightly be proud. Your promenade with its contemporary street lighting was beautifully presented at the time of adjudication. We wish you every success on your project to provide interpretive panels at a variety of locations giving information on the flora and fauna of Sandycove, this is an excellent initiative. We wish you success in your biodiversity application.

Litter Control:

It was a pleasure to note the litter free status of Sandycove Road and the main thoroughfare throughout the town. The only litter spotted on the day of adjudication was on the short stretch of road from the Forty Foot up to Sandycove Road. Well done on your participation the National Spring Clean and congratulations are also due to the pupils of the Harold School for their involvement in litter patrols and Coast Care Watch. Thank you for your anti-litter poster competition enclosures.

Waste Minimisation:

The overall presentation of the recycling point at Eden Park is excellent. It is good to note that litter is segregated for recycling after each clean up. Well done also on your liaison with local businesses to audit their waste and participate in the waste minimisation initiative. We wish you every success in the hosting of a composting workshop with the help of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council officers. Local school children are to be commended for their involvement in the waste minimisation program also.

Tidiness:

Your photographic evidence of work accomplished to eliminate graffiti has been most helpful and indeed on the day of adjudication graffiti was noted in only two instances on utility boxes. The overall appearance of Sandycove is one of tidiness and weed growth did not present a pervasive problem, however curbs along Hudson Road were problematic in this regard.

Residential Areas:

Handsome terraces of period houses are one of the most impressive features of Sandycove. Those overlooking the sea were particularly admired as were those in Eden Park and elsewhere. Both Rossmeen Gardens and the Beaufort development were admired also and the single storey dwellings in Magenta Place are charming, however weedy curbs were a feature of the latter location. While the majority of dwellings are well presented together with their gardens there is a mixed standard of presentation in relation to roadside boundary walls. Some of these did not look well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The overall presentation of road and footpath surfaces was quite good and car parks are well surfaced and being neatly maintained also. It was good to note the wirescape free aspect of Sandycove and Glashuil Road which forms the core of the village, some of your side streets are visually marred by overhead service cables and the most obvious of these being Islington Avenue. A number of street nameplates are in need of refurbishment, an example being the one for Sandycove Avenue North. Street furniture is well presented and again your work on maintaining street furniture free of graffiti is acknowledged and appreciated. Congratulations on the Memorial Seat initiative.

General Impression:

With visitor numbers in excess of 3,000 to Sandycove at weekends during the summer, the committee in particular and the community in general are to be commended for the excellence of the presentation of their lovely town. We look forward to receiving your planned work program with next year's submission.

