

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sandyford**

Ref: **1256**

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

Mark: **216**

Category: **F**

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

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	216

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Sandyford to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. The adjudicator had not visited Sandyford for some years and was highly impressed with the major scale of new developments in the area. 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 Sandyford area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Sandyford 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 Sandyford 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 scale of the Sandyford Industrial Estate is highly impressive and it is great to see really modern building design in the area in such buildings as the Beacon Hospital. The South Quarter Shopping Centre will be another major development for the area when completed and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing this. The IMI building and grounds on Sandyford Road was superbly landscaped with grass areas at various levels and excellent trees and shrubs. The landscaping at the Central Bank premises is really excellent.

Landscaping:

Formal public landscaping in Sandyford appeared to the adjudicator to be rather limited but private individuals and business and companies have made major efforts in this regard. These all add in a most positive way to

the image of Sandyford. Excellent colourful landscaping was examined at the entrance to Wesley Heights. If you are considering developing new landscaped areas in Sandyford 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:

Under this category of adjudication in Tidy Towns entrants are encouraged to research and promote the wildlife of their area. In the Sandyford context the beautifully presented Ballawley Park is an obvious place to start. The fine Chestnut trees here were much admired. It may be worth getting a school involved in a research project on the wildlife in this beautiful park under professional and experienced guidance. The starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. 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 Sandyford area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might assist with this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area 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 for Sandyford to preserve the identified habitats in your 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. 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 in Sandyford on the day of adjudication was good. Your Tidy Towns Plan should also address the issue of litter control and how a high standard can be maintained on a daily basis on into the future.

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 Sandyford 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 in Sandyford on waste minimisation in your 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 and businesses in the Sandyford Industrial Estate 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:

Watch for weed growth at the base of walls as noted at the park where a lot of growth had taken place at the base of the low brick wall. On Sandyford Road an extremely untidy linear verge area was noted at the Bus Shelter No. 1696 just below the IMI premises. This was so uncharacteristic of Sandyford that there may an underlying problem preventing visual improvement here.

Residential Areas:

Like many other aspects of Sandyford the housing areas visited were generally of a higher than average standard. The College Park and College Park Drive areas were outstandingly presented and the landscaping here represents best practice from a Tidy Towns point of view. The landscaping at the various Granite estate name stones really caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main roads in Sandyford were well presented and traffic management appeared to be well organised. The regular cutting of roadside verges is essential if a lush green finish is to be developed – well worth the effort however especially in an urban environment.

General Impression:

Sandyford is a very impressive area and the adjudicator wishes you well with your 2007 projects.