

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Whitecliff** Ref: **1207**  
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **230**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>230</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Whitecliff Rathfarmham is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition as a new entrant. Please submit a planned work program covering a period of a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years to guide your progress through the competition together with a map. You have a substantial number of members on the Committee at twelve and it is good to note your yearly meetings and clean up days. Well done on your liaison with Dublin County Council. White Cliff is a beautiful leafy suburb of Rathfarmham in particular and Dublin in general and enjoys a mature and neatly presented appearance. Please forward a map of the area with future submissions to facilitate the adjudication process.

### **The Built Environment:**

Well done on fencing off of your derelict site and your plans to preserve it as a nature reserve. As White Cliff does not have business premises, schools or a church at this stage in its development, it is essential that all aspects of your residential areas are presented to the highest standard.

### **Landscaping:**

This is your strong point in the competition, trees range in age from recently planted through to semi mature and stands of stately mature trees and all are being beautifully maintained. The red berried rowan trees in one residential area were the first seen this year by the adjudicator and looked quite splendid with its splash of colour. Green open spaces of which there are very many in White Cliff are being well maintained, the grass was slightly longer than might be expected however given the amount of rain and the difficulty in maintaining grass areas in the type of weather we have had this summer you have done very well to present it to the standard achieved. Seasonal flower displays and shrubberies might now be considered. We note from your application that there are some daffodils planted around trees and in open areas. Give some thought to

planting for autumn and winter interest also.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

A good place to start when competing in this aspect of the competition would be to do a survey of wildlife of White Cliff; perhaps you could start with a species count of bird. This can start off at a small scale and expand to incorporate the entire area. Bird boxes might be installed on trees and individual householders might attach one to trees in their own gardens with each household doing their own species count. It would be a good idea to consult with the wildlife department of Dublin County Council for advice on how to proceed with regard to a wildlife survey.

#### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent. Your regular clean ups appear to be effective as no litter bins were noted and of course the area was litter free. A small exception was a blue plastic bag full of beer cans on one of the green areas. To perform at a higher standard under this heading, you might consider participating in An Taisce's National Spring Clean. Litter collected should also be segregated for recycling purposes.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The goal under this heading is to reduce the volume of waste generated by the community and an appropriate way to start working on this goal would be to do a waste audit to identify type and amount of waste. The next step in the process would be to devise strategies on ways to achieve your goals, with this in mind flyers might be distributed to householders advising on things from buying goods without wrapping to composting and a variety of appropriate activities. A recycling point was not noted during adjudication.

#### **Tidiness:**

The area had an overall appearance of tidiness with small lapses. However as these were related to construction work, it is anticipated that the problem will disappear when related works have ceased. Well done on the elimination of graffiti from street furniture and on the re-instatement of house numbers on walls.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Residential areas were beautifully presented in respect of green open spaces, boundary walls, roadside verges, curbs etc. you have performed well under this heading. Many gardens were in full bloom at the time of adjudication and it would be difficult to single out those which were most impressive. Well done also on the monitoring of the development on Taylor's lane and good luck with your requirement to the County Council to build a good quality boundary wall here.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road and footpath surfaces were good and street furniture such as lamp standards looked well also. It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect of White Cliff. The entrance to White Cliff was marked by a beautiful name stone and shrubbery which is a most attractive feature. The perimeter boundary with the White Church Road is a little untidy with weeds growing up around the boulders here. These should be maintained free of weed growth to give a more defined finish to the main road.

#### **General Impression:**

White cliff is an attractive village but with a shortage of commercial and civic buildings it is important to establish a greater identity perhaps under the heading of Wildlife.