

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Windy Arbour** Ref: **1329**
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **189**
Category: **E** Date(s): **20/07/2007**

	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	23
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	189

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Windy Arbour to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. 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 your area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Windy Arbour and work within these. The supporting documentation for this might then be submitted with your 2008 entry. On the issue of boundaries the adjudicator always thought that the Central mental Hospital was located in Dundrum, yet the Ordnance Survey map used by the adjudicator clearly shows this institution as being located in Windy Arbour. Likewise the Dundrum Business Park appears to be located in Windy Arbour? 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 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 long high roadside boundary wall of the Central Mental Hospital dominates that part of Dundrum Road. At the junction of Bird Avenue and Roebuck Road the small retail area here was examined. The presentation was reasonably good and signage used on the various shops was in scale with the building that it identified. The presentation of the retail area at the Luas Bridge was improved by the extension of the cobble-lock paving out to the landscaped area at the side of the road. A number of well presented uncluttered properties caught the eye including Nissan and Grontimj on the Dundrum Road. The Dundrum Business Park was effectively presented.

Landscaping:

Little formalised landscaping was observed in Windy Arbour. A small roadside landscaped area at the retail area by the Luas Bridge needed maintenance. The shrubs here were being taken over by long grass and heavy weed growth, but the five trees here were a welcome addition. At the Roebuck Road and Bird Avenue junction the large green area with some good trees has further potential for improvement. For example there are some bare patches in the grass that need to be properly re-seeded.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Under this adjudication category marks can be awarded to an entry for the research and promotion of wildlife in the entry area. The Windy Arbour Tidy Towns Committee might review this possibility for 2008. You will find the Tidy Towns Handbook will have some useful suggestions for your consideration in this regard.

Litter Control:

Not a lot of litter was noted on adjudication day but small litter items were noted in various areas as one might expect given the heavy traffic through this area. Your Tidy Towns Plan should also consider the issue of litter control and how best a high standard can be maintained into the future. An exception in regard to litter was the landscaped area at the shops opposite the Luas Bridge. A large quantity of litter was noted here mixed in with the weeds and landscaping. Areas such as this will always have the potential to collect litter.

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 Windy Arbour in the competition 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 Windy Arbour 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 school or schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. You could also consider a partnership with local firms in Windy Arbour and especially in the Dundrum Business Park and businesses 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:

Bad graffiti was noted on a small square building at the Bird Avenue / Roebuck Road junction. At various other locations graffiti appeared on ESB sub-station units and on other small steel roadside boxes. This is an issue that could be discussed with the Local Authority.

Residential Areas:

The presentation of Beechmount Drive would be improved if some work was done on roadside grass areas. Especially at the Telephone Box weed growth was quite bad. At Mulvey Park the parking of some many cars here that may not belong to residents gave a much cluttered look to part of this estate. The one way traffic system did seem to help traffic flows on adjudication day. 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 Windy Arbour. -

- 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 Windy Arbour 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.

It is suggested that your committee might like to consider the possibility of running a Tidy Estates Competition involving the estates in the Windy Arbour 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.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main roads were reasonably well presented but a long roadside area at a bus stop on Goatstown Road (going up) needs to be surfaced.

General Impression:

Litter, graffiti and attention to landscaping are three issues that the Windy Arbour Tidy Towns Plan might consider. The adjudicator would like to wish you well with your 2008 projects.