

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blanchardstown** Ref: **365**
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **236**
Category: **H** Date(s): **11/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	236

Overall Development Approach:

Blanchardstown is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which includes your excellent plan and a variety of initiatives including your publication 'Dublin 15 and Beyond'. Your newsletter has been noted also, we wish you well regarding any further initiatives for the old Porterstown National School. It would be a good idea to locate maps at a number of sites in the village centre on weather-proof and vandal-proof stands showing both the existing facilities within Blanchardstown of which there are many and the location of various housing developments.

The Built Environment:

There are numerous attractive shop fronts in Blanchardstown however there are still far too many with signs above fascia level which gives an impression of visual clutter. The neat hedgerow boundary of the church is an attractive feature and the old school near the church looks well also. Solid gates beside the site at the Adult Education Centre on the main street would give greater enclosure here. At the time of judging the Medical Centre featured solid security shutters which did nothing to enhance its appearance, some consideration might be give to the lattice type shutter used in conjunction with internal lighting after business hours. The Greyhound Bar is an attractive building however the banner here detracted from an otherwise good appearance. The Garda station looked well and the hanging baskets which marked its entrance were colourful.

Landscaping:

Some landscaping in the form of a grassed area or shrubbery behind the name plate on the southern entrance to Blanchardstown is suggested. The stands of mature trees which grace the main street are splendid and the

silver birch were especially admired. Permanent landscaping throughout Blanchardstown is an excellent feature and is more important than summer flower displays; the town centre looked particularly good in this respect. Climbing plants are suggested to soften the hard appearance of the concrete slabs which form the roadside boundary of the hospital. Well done on your walkabout with FCC engineers to identify appropriate sites for landscaping. We wish you well in bringing your future projects to completion.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The section of the Tolka Valley Park located across from the Waterville residential development is especially impressive and the lake here is a stunning feature, it has been considered for the Landscape Award. Your future plan to construct an appropriate entrance into this park is commendable. The park should be signposted from the main street and indeed featured on a map of Blanchardstown at a number of locations around the town. You might consider adopting a future project to identify wildlife habitats and to take appropriate steps to both raise public awareness and to protect wildlife from future development, perhaps the local schools could be involved with this.

Litter Control:

The overall standard of litter control was very good, well done. We wish you well in your initiative to have outdated litter bins replaced with more attractive ones. Good luck also with your endeavour to have Blanchardstown designated a Poster Free Zone. Incidental litter was noted within the environs of the hospital, within the Tolka Valley Park and a few other areas, no doubt your litter control activities play an important role in the standard achieved to date.

Waste Minimisation:

You might consider segregating litter after collection for recycling. Composting initiatives might also be encouraged to householders and those responsible for landscaping green areas. Well done on the use of your newsletters and other circulars to encourage the local community to recycle, reduce and reuse and to use the facilities at the Coolmine Fingal depot. The recycling point at Superquinn cannot be considered for an award because boxes and bags have been left beside the containers and looked untidy. Good luck with your launch of the recycle, reuse and reduce campaign.

Tidiness:

Outsized advertisement hoardings are unattractive and out of place in a village centre. Try to have these eliminated altogether. Well done on your efforts also regarding the ducting of overhead service cables and the removal of bins left outside business premises all day. On the day of adjudication banners and posters featured at the corner of the Clonsilla Road and were a little tacky and certainly excessive in number, these should be eliminated also.

Residential Areas:

Some boundary walls to the terrace of charming single storey dwellings along the main street are in need of refurbishment. The Mary Brennan Park residential development was neatly presented and the Waterville development is attractive and well landscaped. A line of washing however was a feature of one of the apartments and hopefully this problem will be eliminated. The majority of residential developments enjoyed an excellent presentation of their green open spaces and maturing trees, these included Ramor Park, Rushbrook, Hazel Lawn and many estates off the Clonsilla Road. Well done on your initiative regarding the cooperation of resident groups and traders.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Name stones are an attractive feature of Blanchardstown and street furniture particularly the lamp standards along the main street look especially well. The proposed bins to coordinate with the lamp standards is a nice touch, you might take it a stage further by coordinating with public seating also. We wish you well in your efforts to have new access to the hospital installed via a flyover to decrease traffic in the village centre, in addition to the upgrading of Tolka Bridge.

General Impression:

The Tolka Valley Linear Park is a wonderful amenity but its existence must be highlighted more for the

community and of course for visitors especially its access points and as noted above a map in the village centre utilising a vandal-proof all-weather panel.