

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Rusheeny** Ref: **1249**  
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **191**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	20
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>191</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Rusheeny is most welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your submission. It is important that you work to a three year development plan as this will guide your progress through the competition and we urge you to prepare one and submit it with next year's application. It is good to note that you work in cooperation with Fingal County Council and that you make good use of fliers and, newsletters and meet with the community on a house to house basis. The village is well signposted from the Hartstown Road. If Rusheeny has heritage features such as a social history or if there is a heritage attached to its name, this might be an element to develop and include in your three year plan.

### **The Built Environment:**

Rusheeny is residential in character and there are no shops or schools, churches, public buildings of any kind so it is important that all aspects of its residential estates and green open spaces are presented to the highest standard. It is also important that walls, utility boxes and other features are well maintained.

### **Landscaping:**

Expanses of green open spaces are perhaps the most characteristic feature of Rusheeny and these must be maintained to a high standard if the area is not to have an untidy appearance. At the time of adjudication many green areas were a little overgrown, however given the amount of rain this summer and the little opportunity for mowing, this is understandable. Another characteristic feature of Rusheeny is its many trees and the rowans were in berry at the time of adjudication and looked wonderful. The base of trees must be kept free of long grass and suckers. Do not be tempted to plant flowers around the base of trees as they are unnecessary. Part of your long term goal for the village might be to provide your many roundabouts with either a sculpture or a specimen tree to create a strong visual statement and provide a unity to the area.

Roundabouts are being nicely maintained but do not make a strong visual impact. Ensure that all future planting utilizes native species as these are supportive of wildlife.

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

Even urban areas are host to wildlife habitats and it is important over the lifetime of your plan and your participation in the competition to identify wildlife present in Rusheeney and to communicate this in the form of nature walks, interpretive panels and other means to the community. A good place to start might be to do a bird species survey, this could involve children in households identifying the different types of bird in their own gardens and the results being featured on a wildlife interpretive panel. At a later stage, a bird hide might be located at an appropriate place within Rusheeney. Another suitable project might be to designate an area within Rusheeney for wild flowers and grasses. Your Tidy Towns handbook will be an excellent source of ideas under this heading.

### **Litter Control:**

The overall standard of litter control in Rusheeney was quiet good on adjudication day. Plastic bottles and take away litter were noted but not much. A lot of litter was noted beside the bus stop on the Hartstown Road, at the time of adjudication, it was not clear whether this area is part of Rusheeney or not. Well done on the successful clean ups involving litter collection and the tidying of grass verges and curbing, all who participated are to be commended.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The goal under this heading is to reduce the amount of waste produced by the community. With this in mind perhaps a good place to start would be to undertake a waste audit and when both the type of waste and the amount of waste is established, appropriate strategies might be devised for minimizing this. The Tidy Towns Committee might consider organizing composting seminars for the community and designating an area for the composting of green waste. Your local authority might consider the collection of green waste.

### **Tidiness:**

Well done on your work regarding the elimination of graffiti from lamp- standards and road traffic signs, utility boxes are also included in this, well done. The installation of speed ramps and children at play signs are acknowledged also. Graffiti was still a feature of walls in The View and The Green. Many stretches of curb were host to outbreaks of weed, your work regarding weeding is acknowledged, however some were still in evidence at the time of adjudication.

### **Residential Areas:**

Rusheeney is a pleasant combination of new single storey dwellings and the more traditional semi-detached houses with gardens. Some roadside areas to boundary walls throughout the village were overgrown, it is noted from your application that the committee encourages residents to look after the grass verges outside of their homes, this will need to be reiterated on a continuous basis. So far the management of large green areas and the planting of trees has been successful. Different areas might take responsibility for the installation of bird boxes on appropriate trees in their areas to encourage more wildlife

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

The overall standard of road and footpaths throughout the village is quite good. However despite your best efforts regarding graffiti, at the time of adjudication some utility boxes still looked quite spoiled. The telephone kiosk beside the bus stop on the Hartstown Road is in a really poor condition and the litter bin here had been vandalized also. Perhaps name stones could be provided at the entrance to the different areas of the village.

### **General Impression:**

Rusheeney is an attractive residential development. However it doesn't have the visual characteristics of a village at present. This might be addressed by measures such as adopting a village logo and featuring it on name stones by providing a map of the area on an interpretive panel and by promoting your heritage features. We look forward to charting your progress over the next few years.