

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Skerries** Ref: **178**  
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **287**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **09/06/2007**  
**06/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>287</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Skerries is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included useful support material, your Skerries heritage trail submission is particularly interesting and Skerries has been considered for the Heritage Award. It is good to note your partnership approach with various agencies and statutory bodies and the support you receive from local business. Well done also on your liaison with local schools and particularly the competitions that you run in tandem with these.

### The Built Environment:

Schools and churches were nicely presented and the new pedestrian walkway along the South Strand is a fine addition to your amenities. The planned upgrading of the public toilet has been noted. Congratulations on the ducting of overhead service cables along Strand Street. We wish you every success in your planned projects and look forward in particular to the installation of the oyster catcher sculpture at the junction of Church Street/Strand Street/Holmpatrick.

### Landscaping:

As in previous years, Skerries has been particularly admired for the excellent maintenance of its grassed areas, its young semi mature and mature trees and of course its flower displays. The adjudicator was surprised not to see a flower display at the monument in Strand Street, however, flower displays were admired at numerous other locations. Well done on reseeding work particularly at the sports field at the Link Road and on the maintenance of the grassed area at the site of the Pump House on the Balbriggan Road.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Wild grasses along verges inside the name plate are natural and backed by attractive hedgerow and trees. We note the dune conservation project and are full of admiration for the magnificent presentation of Red Island. Thank you for the wildlife photographic record, which is charming. Skerries has many amenities of which it can be proud and your coastline harbour and beach are all beautifully presented. However, one stretch of pier wall was in need of whitewashing. The swimming areas to be upgraded will be a further addition to the amenity value of Skerries and we look forward to this.

**Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent throughout Skerries and its environs. Three milk cartons were noted on the Balbriggan Road, which no doubt were thrown from passing cars. On adjudication day, someone had broken polystyrene and strewn it around Tennis Court Lane. What appeared to be new litter bins along the new walkway have been noted, well done. We note the extension of working hours for street cleaning within the town by Fingal County Council and we also note your education programme regarding litter awareness in the schools, your litter pickups are effective also. Do provide additional information on the results of the gum survey to be undertaken later this year.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling point at the entrance to Skerries on the Lusk Road was neatly presented however the one on the South Strand needs to have boards installed. Well done on your composting workshops and of course your Green Flag Schools initiative. It is good to note the segregation of litter after cleanups for recycling. Your Green Neighbourhood Award is interesting and of course ambitious and we will be more than interested to hear the outcome in next year's submission.

**Tidiness:**

It was good to note that the corner site at the junction of Thomas Hand Street and Strand Street is for auction, this important focal point of the town no doubt will be beautifully and appropriately developed. Congratulations on the under grounding of overhead service cables in Strand Street and the upgrading of footpath and road signage. Well done also on graffiti elimination. We look forward to the replacement of shabby signage within the town and its estates together with minimisation of signage around the Railway Bridge.

**Residential Areas:**

Skerries has an interesting mix of both period and modern houses together with apartments most of which are presented to a high standard. Dwellings on the entrance from the Balbriggan Road are particularly admired in respect of their maintenance. Skerries Rock development continues to look very well. Well done for your "Best Kept House" in an estate award together with your Best Presented Estate. The new footpath through the green between Skerries Rock and Seacrest will be much used and appreciated. We wish you well on your planned projects under this heading.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Your nameplate and town twinning signs are being well maintained and form a good introduction to Skerries town as does the presentation of the railway station, which was neatly presented but not sign posted. Street furniture is presented to a high standard and again we note the ducting of overhead services cables along Strand Street. Work in progress was noted on Church Street and to the public toilets on the South Strand, those located at the harbour looked particularly well. The work accomplished for the Railway Bridge is acknowledged together with new developments at the Red Island car park. We look forward to the resurfacing of a number of roads leading to the town centre for next year's competition.

**General Impression:**

Well done on having the derelict fishing boats removed from the harbour and on your other successes for this year. We note the issues faced by the committee and the community and are confident you will have success in these endeavours also. Skerries is a beautiful town with a fine heritage and wonderful natural amenities for the enjoyment of its population. We look forward to future visits.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The first impression of Skerries from the Lusk approach is superb with a wonderful display of vibrant flower beds. As ever the standard throughout the town in this regard is exceptional. The majority of residences on Shenick Road were well presented and the mature trees were admired. Commercial and public premises, too looked well throughout the main streets and in particular Powells Interiors, Supervalu, Nealons, Michael Collins and the Garda Station were noted. The small shopping centre on Shenick Road looked a little tatty and much of the signage requires upgrading. Red Island looked fantastic on this sunny summer afternoon and it a truly wonderful amenity. Unfortunately there was quite a severe litter outbreak throughout this area despite the numerous bins. The playground look well and was extremely busy. Skerries Community Centre looked well and offers an opportunity to landscape the boundary of the car park area. The bring centre was neat and tidy at the Super Valu car park. Some of the road surfaces were a little patchy but this is possibly due to ongoing ducting work. You are commended on your excellent development plan which is clear and concise and makes it much easier to allocate marks! Congratulations on your many achievements to date and keep up the good work!