

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sutton** Ref: **149**
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **239**
Category: **D** Date(s): **08/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Sutton is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, we note however the absence of a plan, perhaps you could include one with next year's entry. The information panel 'A Guide to Howth Peninsula and North Bull Island Nature Resource' is an excellent feature that provides good interpretation for the visitor. It is good to note your liaison with Fingal County Council and local business interests. Well done also on your techniques for circulating information regarding Tidy Towns Activities.

The Built Environment:

Your discussions with Fingal County Council regarding the architectural conservation areas on Strand Road and the restoration of the cottage in St. Fintans Cemetery will no doubt bear fruit in the long term. We wish you well regarding your future plans under this heading. Most shop fronts are tastefully presented, however in some instances the thoughtless positioning of posters in doors and windows detracted from an otherwise good appearance.

Landscaping:

The expansion car park for the DART Station is nicely landscaped and flower and shrub displays in containers were noted at Sutton Cross, however it is suggested that this treatment be extended to the site accommodating the Sutton Cross name plate. Stands of mature pines at several locations in Sutton looked quite splendid and offered a welcome relief and contrast to cordylines. The treatment to the stone sign at Santa Sabrina Manor has been noted together with the newly planted hedge at the entrance to the Marine Hotel. We look forward to reinstating landscaping at the map area and the bus stop area opposite St. Fintans High School.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your wonderful coastal location ensures significant wildlife interest and recreational amenity for Sutton together with your walk along the coast and cycle track. Well done on organising educational tours for school children to raise awareness of migratory birds. Stands of wildflower along Burrow Road were admired and are an important wildlife habitat for birds, insects and butterflies. We wish you every success in the development of the proposed Wildlife Trail and the updating and expansion of the Sli na Slainte.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good overall, however, a particular weak spot was the bus stop on Sutton Cross Road. A shopping trolley and a mattress had been dumped at the low bridge on Burrow Road which is rather unfortunate. Other than these particular problems, the overall appearance was one of cleanliness and we note from your submission that you have clean up events each evening during the summer and that you participate in the National Spring Clean. This no doubt accounts for an excellent standard of litter control. Your links with the schools are useful in this respect.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point at the cemetery was neatly presented with no evidence of dumping. We note from your submission that you orchestrated a campaign to encourage the use of the new Bring Centre facility at the Fingal County Council Estuary Recycling Centre. Keep us informed of your strategy to create awareness of recycling and waste minimisation particularly the importance of bio-degradability of materials used in packaging. Congratulations to the students of St. Fintans National School on their Green Flag Award; we wish them every success in their endeavours to achieve a second one.

Tidiness:

Your work to keep graffiti at a minimum has been successful as only one utility box featured this type of vandalism, well done. Well done also on the resurfacing of the parking bay on Strand Road. We appreciate the problem presented by the derelict house at the top of Station Road and hopefully the sewage project will be completed in the not too distant future to allow for its redevelopment. We note your future projects regarding road name signs and wish you every success with this.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties and their curtilage areas enjoy an excellent standard of presentation; however a word regarding the presentation of boundary walls is necessary in some instances. Also the base of trees in some housing estates are spoiled by long grass an example being Carrick Brack Heath. Name stones for residential dwellings are attractive. Your Tidy Districts and Gardens Competitions appear to be a great success.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road and footpath surfaces are good in most instances and it is acknowledged that your resurfacing programme will continue into the future. The car park on Strand Road is neatly presented and offers excellent amenity value. Well done on the new stretch of footpath at the end of Burrow Road which is part of the proposed Coastal Walk behind the DART Station. Street furniture in most instances is well presented.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Sutton is most pleasant and the village has wonderful natural amenities to offer both the community and visitors. Well done on another fine presentation.