

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Swords** Ref: **160**
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **239**
Category: **H** Date(s): **09/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Swords is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Town Competition. Thank you for your submission, it is good to note your partnership approach with Fingal County Council and the support you receive from business interests including GC's Supermarket together with Shane Redmond Estate Agents. Well done also on your two education liaison officers with local schools. The adjudicator was sorry to note the disappointment of the committee with an increase of only five marks last year. However as you progress in the competition, it will become more difficult to earn marks at the higher performing levels.

The Built Environment:

The continuation of the restoration of Swords Castle is acknowledged and we look forward to its completion. Both the Main Street and Dublin Street are excellent in their overall presentation with their stately mature trees and well maintained grass verges. Business premises looked well also, with not too much offensive signage in evidence. However one business complex on North Street had too many signs, perhaps a single sign could accommodate all business interests here. The old world character of The Vicarage complements the 21st century appearance of parts of the Main Street particularly the council buildings.

Landscaping:

Well done on the planting of flowerbeds at Pinnock Hill roundabout and other locations together with tree planting on the Ashbourne approach road. Perhaps you could investigate the installation of sculpture and landscaping for the roundabouts on the N1 at some future date. Flower displays on the Pound Premises add a welcome touch of colour to the environment here. The entrance to Castle Park is beautiful with its

landscaping and flower displays and a hard landscaped play area (skateboarding) at another location was noted also.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Do keep us up to date on the installation of your new bird guide interpretive panel and your activities regarding the Broadmeadow River and Estuary Linear Walks. The stretch of the River Ward within the centre of the town hosted tree branches, shopping trolleys, wheels and plastic bottles.

Litter Control:

Well done on your arrangement with Fingal County Council to put in place a new cleaning schedule and increase the number of litter bins throughout the town. The increase in litter patrols by schools and resident associations is acknowledged also. The town center looked well on the day of adjudication in respect of litter control and both Main Street, North Street and the Dublin Road were litter free. Some litter was noted on the outskirts of the town, particularly on the Rathbeale Road, in Applewood and at the Castle Shopping Centre.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to note the change by Fingal County Council to accept all plastics at the new Estuary Recycling Centre. The introduction by the Council of the brown compost bin collection will no doubt help to minimize the amount of waste produced by the community. It is very important to keep the recycling points free of dumping, one recycling point was spoiled by the presence of bags and boxes.

Tidiness:

Well done on the agreement to have five unused lamp poles removed and on your work regarding weeding. The most serious problem under this heading was the area to the rear of the Castle Shopping Centre at the River Ward which was spoilt by the presence of unsightly containers and graffiti.

Residential Areas:

Your work in conjunction with resident associations is noted and the planting of flowerbeds at the entrance to estates is a nice touch. Well done on the overall maintenance of green open spaces and the presentation of individual gardens. Swords boasts residential properties of all ages, and your biggest problem will be to involve new residents in the maintenance of their public areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your work to clean up the derelict site fronting the scrap yard on the Swords Road is acknowledged. The wide footpaths along the Main Street are excellent in presentation and car parking is quite orderly. Street furniture is attractively presented also. More could be achieved for the roundabouts on the N1 as noted above.

General Impression:

The overall appearance of Swords is excellent in the town centre, but with some poor backland areas, particularly at the River Ward; the presentation is less good on the perimeter of the town.