

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cabinteely** Ref: **1334**
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **219**
Category: **F** Date(s): **17/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	219

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Cabinteely to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition and your entry is important to the competition. Cabinteely is extremely lucky that with the bye-pass it has managed to retain a genuine village atmosphere so close to the centre of Dublin. The Tidy Towns Committee should do everything possible to retain this attractive atmosphere. It is suggested that at an early date that your Tidy Towns Committee considers the preparation of a simple 3 Year Tidy Towns Action Plan that would detail year by year the projects that you wish to undertake in Cabinteely for Tidy Towns. When preparing the Plan it would be helpful to talk to any local organisations or agencies that may have an interest in the Competition.

The Built Environment:

Cabinteely unlike many suburban areas has a true village core area built up around the cross-roads area. Buildings were generally well presented and the colour Scheme at the Garda Station was admired. Other village centre buildings were also attractively presented. At the Horse and hounds the corner canopy needs to be painted. At this building the recessed concrete signage was noted and this is rather unusual and visually effective. Other buildings that were well presented included the Community School and the School where good landscaping compliments the buildings.

Landscaping:

Excellent corner landscaping is a feature at the junction for the Park at Glen Drive. Cabinteely is so lucky to have two main park areas. The Cabinteely Park is a well maintained community facility with the exception of the railings that need to be painted. Kilbroggen Park off Johnstown Road is another great public area however the well built Granite pillars at the entrance have been defaced by graffiti. Good well maintained landscaping also features at the entrance to Cabinteely Close. Hanging baskets and colourful window boxes in the village

centre create a great sense of colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The two park areas are excellent resources for wildlife and for the study of wildlife. It is suggested that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the wildlife potential of Cabinteely, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly. The starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in the area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Cabinteely area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals plants birds that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year. Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan for Cabinteely to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. Ultimately your objective is to encourage the existing wildlife to stay in your area and encourage new species to move in. This can only be done by creating an awareness of the feeding and shelter needs of the various species in the area. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved. As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Based on observations on adjudication day litter control is one of the strengths of Cabinteely as litter control was good on that day. However this much be managed on a weekly basis if such a standard is to be maintained on an ongoing basis.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Cabinteely for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in the Cabinteely area is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local school or schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. If you do not already have a Bring Bank Centre or if you have one that is not yet properly signposted from the town centre then such initiatives could gain additional marks for your centre in 2008.

Tidiness:

The main tidiness problem in Cabinteely is that of graffiti that was noted in quite a number of areas. Graffiti was seen on Parking Meter machines, on roadside green steel units and on the Post Box in Park Drive. This issue is one that the new Tidy Towns Committee might wish to consider at an early date. If not controlled it can only get worse and the involvement of the Local Authority may be helpful in this regard. At the end of the old Bray Road the Dun Laoghaire signpost needs to be washed and the rusty supporting poles painted.

Residential Areas:

Generally the presentation of residential areas was quite good. At Glen Drive some verges needed to be cut. The cottages in the village are attractive older buildings and the possibility of using a coordinated colour scheme might be considered by the committee in the future. Cabinteely Court is a fine estate with good mature landscaping. The Lambourne Woods and Homewood areas were really excellently presented apart from the long run of railings that needed to be painted. Also the ornate ironwork at the entrance needed repainting. The ornate central landscaped area was greatly admired. The untidy gap in the roadsides shrubs at Carrig Glen needs attention. At Cabinteely Close very good grass areas and landscaping are key features

of excellent presentation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Brennanstown Road has a fine stone wall that defines the edge of the Park but some wall repairs are necessary in a few locations. Johnstown Road which is quite a busy road is wide and creates a good first impression on the approach to the village cross-roads. Stone walls also define the old Bray Road and their retention is critically important.

General Impression:

Cabinteely is an attractive village with some character. The adjudicator would like to wish you well with your Tidy Towns plans for 2008.