

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rusheeny** Ref: **1249**
County: **Dublin(Fingal)** Mark: **197**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	20
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	197

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2008 TidyTowns competition and thank you for your entry form. As there was no map provided there is always the possibility of missing some item of particular importance to the committee, so it would be very useful to include one highlighting such areas. The adjudicator last year recommended working to a strategic plan - have you considered this? It would certainly assist in targeting your activities and developing projects under all the categories beneath. Perhaps for next year...?

The Built Environment:

Housing is presented to a very high standard throughout the area, although this would normally attract marks under the residential area category beneath rather than here. Are there any plans to develop such facilities to further consolidate the identity of the area? The adjudicator last year made a few recommendations on how the village characteristic of the area could be better developed, rather than it being seen as a housing development in a broader urban area. There wasn't much evidence of this as yet although we would heartily agree with this recommendation so that Rusheeny can develop its own identity.

Landscaping:

Rusheeny contains large expanses of green area and it is important to keep these all maintained. The main areas were tidy, but some of the verges and small patches were overgrown. We were delighted to see the landscaping on the roundabout which added a splash of colour and was well maintained. It would be good to include some tables and benches in the green areas to encourage residents to socialise together. Play equipment could also be added to these areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Again there were a lot of ideas put forward by the adjudicator last year and we were wondering whether you have made any progress on these - there is certainly plenty of potential with your open green areas. For instance, a community wildlife garden might be an interesting project to undertake if there is any interest from residents.

Litter Control:

We are pleased to hear of your organised clean ups and they are certainly paying dividends. While there was some bits of litter scattered throughout, this was minor and looked recent and would probably have been removed shortly afterwards. So well done on your achievements.

Waste Minimisation:

Have you tried to implement any of the ideas put forward last year on reducing waste in the community? For instance, you could ensure that all grasses removed are home composted and reused on landscaping projects. Also, your application does not state what types of bin collections are undertaken in the area and if these include recycling and green waste which would attract marks under this category.

Tidiness:

Graffiti is an issue in some areas of Rusheeny Village and you have noted this in your application. You are commended on the work you have undertaken to remove as much as you can and best of luck in your endeavours. There was also an old abandoned pram left in the park area.

Residential Areas:

Rusheeny Village is a family friendly area with a lot of green areas. On the day of adjudication Rusheeny Court was very clean and most of the houses were presented to a very high standard. Rusheeny View was also well presented but there were some weeds present along the kerb areas. In an area this size it could be a good idea to develop a Best Garden award in which residents could compete for some small awards, and this could even be expanded to include best street, etc.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There was a broken pole broken at the roundabout leading into Rusheeny View and this should be replaced. Road surfaces were in good repair. Some areas did have some weeds in the kerb but this has obviously been reduced by the amount of work you have undertaken in this area. Well done.

General Impression:

Rusheeny Village obviously has a strong community spirit and that is evident by the work underway. One difficulty you may have in competing in the national TidyTown competition, as opposed to other initiatives open to estates, apartment blocks etc., is that the area seems to be part of a greater urban area rather than having a distinct village presence of its own. In such cases, TidyTown normally requires the greater area to enter. However, TidyTown is committed to assisting those wishing to consolidate distinct urban neighbourhoods where it is realistic to do so - eg. old areas subsumed in large urban areas that wish to re-establish their identity or new distinct village areas built with their own amenities and stand-alone identity. At the moment Rusheeny seems to be somewhere in the middle between being a stand-alone 'village' and a housing development within a larger area. We would be very interested in learning your ambitions on this to see whether the TidyTown programme can assist your objectives. In any event the very best of luck in your endeavours.