

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Terenure** Ref: **175**
County: **Dublin(South)** Mark: **256**
Category: **E** Date(s): **11/06/2008**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2008 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 44 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 31 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 28 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 30 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 9 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 29 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 30 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 256 |

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2008 TidyTowns competition and thank you for your entry form and map. Terenure is beautiful urban village area of Dublin City and as such could be competing for the very highest honours in TidyTowns. We were therefore disappointed not to receive an overarching strategic plan with your entry form as we understand you were working to a plan previously, and adjudicators have asked for updates on this over the last few years. Your very high mark under this category was awarded for the existence of this plan and to maintain such a high standard would need an updated or revised plan submitted with next year's entry form. Well do

ne on everything you have achieved to date, but we can see from information provided that you obviously have very good relationships with your local businesses, schools and the Council, so all the elements are there to be pulled together in one strategic drive to the top should you wish.

The Built Environment:

Terenure is blessed to have inherited such a high quality building stock and most the buildings are being presented to a very high standard. Over the years a number of premises have been highlighted and were pleased to note that overall standards are being maintained. On the day of adjudication we were particularly struck by Terenure College which was beautifully presented on the day of adjudication with excellent landscaping. The Bank of Ireland is a wonderful old building and was in good repair and the Greenlea Road Shops were all clean and tidy, with very little litter in the area to detract from their appeal. St Joseph Boys National School was also very well presented.

Landscaping:

Hanging baskets and floral displays can add colour to a street and are suitable addition to areas with your fine architecture, however, as pointed out last year, it is not necessary to plant flowers at the base of trees.

Keeping trees bases free from weeds and grasses and allowing them flourish naturally is preferable. A lovely street green lamp was admired in Brighton square. Bushy Park is a wonderful natural area in your community and is being maintained to its usual high standards. We are looking forward to your plans to develop this amenity further, particularly how you can balance its obvious amenity value with wildlife needs and how you will bring all the necessary stakeholders in the community on board with your plans.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As stated Bushy Park is a wonderful natural amenity with obvious benefits to local wildlife and we are looking forward to seeing your plans bear fruit. It was initially difficult to find the Lakeside Park as no signs were evident, but once found, it was lovely to visit this tranquil and remote sanctuary, and it was wonderful to see all the ducks splashing away. And the lovely oak trees surrounding the lake make for a pleasant walk. Unfortunately, it appeared to us that the lake did have a build up of algae on the surface which may need to be checked out by the relevant parks authorities and there was a bit of litter in the area - although neither was enough to break the spell of this beautiful location. The 2007 report indicated that Terenure College was undertaking biodiversity work in this area and it would be good if further details on this could be supplied. Perhaps the school could also do a study on the park and be asked to provide ideas on how to enhance it further - indeed such an exercise would be great for the town generally.

Litter Control:

In your application you stated that sometimes you have issues with litter and this would not be unusual in an urban area with such high through-traffic of cars and people. So very well done on your reduction of litter in the car park and bring bank area which were looking really well on the day and, as stated above, the Greenlea Road was also fairly litter clear. There were small bits found in residential roads but overall there was not a lot of litter to be seen in these areas.

Waste Minimisation:

It was good to see the Bring Bank on Eaton Square is in a location that is easily accessible to the public and, as stated, this area was clean on the day of adjudication. We are pleased to here of the work you are undertaking encouraging householders to compost and recycle. Further details on the steps you are taking here would be welcome for next year. It is not mentioned in your application whether any of your schools are involved in the Green Schools programme this year. As marks are awarded for this under this category, perhaps you would let us know for next year.

Tidiness:

In general Terenure was quite tidy on the day of adjudication. Some of the bases of the trees were overgrown with weeds and this needs to be addressed. On the Fergus Road this had obviously been tried with tree bases sprayed, but the dead weeds had not been removed which didn't look that attractive. On the main street, some houses had trees and shrubs that had grown out too far onto the footpath causing an obstruction, so it would be good if these were cut back a bit.

Residential Areas:

Other than a small bits of litter referred to above, Terenure residential areas were their usual high standard. We particularly admired the lovely Edwardian & Terrace houses on Terenure Road North, the well maintained terrace brick buildings along Alexandra Terrace and the high presentation along Greenlea Avenue. The tree lined streets are a beautiful feature in Terenure creating a wonderful ambience throughout and it is no surprise that it is such a much sought after area to live in. To improve standards even higher, have you considered holding "Best Street", "Best Garden" or "Tidiest Estate" awards. This has worked really well in other areas as it encourages more people to directly engage in looking after their immediate areas while indirectly assisting your overall TidyTowns objectives.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Terenure obviously has a lot of through-traffic which creates a number of problems and without major infrastructural changes this is unlikely to change in the near future. However, the TidyTowns groups is of course very well positioned to lobby the City Council on this matter so don't become so delusional as to give up your work. A positive development is the recently installed cycle track and it is hoped this may encourage drivers to switch from their cars. The TidyTowns groups may also have some influence in promoting 'walk-to-school' schemes to try and reduce the school run in the area. While some of the roads and footpaths are a bit patchy due to repairs over the years, they still offer a tidy and safe environment for walking and driving. And congratulations on the wonderful explosion of colour on the entry into Terenure via Terenure Road North with the addition of a large colourful floral display.

General Impression:

Terenure features some wonderful architecture, complemented by the many mature trees throughout the area. For an area so close to the city it also benefits by having access to wonderful outdoor spaces such as Bushy Park and Lakeside Park. As such, it could do really well in TidyTowns and we would encourage you to consider preparing a strategic plan to maximise the benefits of your work. Best of luck in all your future endeavours.