

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Sutton** Ref: **149**  
County: **Dublin(Fingal)** Mark: **243**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **10/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>243</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2008 TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your application and thank you for your new plan. This is certainly a step in the right direction, but it would be great if this could be expanded on and broken into yearly targets. This will assist you in creating a time frame to undertake all the tasks you wish to do. By breaking these down it allows you to see how you are progressing towards your goals and also provides satisfaction on completion of scheduled tasks. The other benefit of the plan is that it can show people in the wider community the projects you are undertaking generally over the long term and specifically for each year and this could attract additional support and sponsorship. Well done on your ongoing work with the local schools, county council and local businesses.

### **The Built Environment:**

Sutton is a combination of the old and the new and it's hard to do it justice in a short report. Starting from your fine Keep Sutton Tidy sign on the coast road Sutton presents a beautiful line of housing right through to Sutton Cross with the obvious large break of St Fintan's School. The school was certainly well presented in its most imposing location. From the Baldoyle approach the Dart Station, a lovely 19th century train station, was very well presented. Suttonians Rugby Club across the road, while a purely functional building, is a wonderful amenity for the area. The older houses on the right looked wonderful as did the more modern houses facing Sutton Cross comprising of a line of shops fronting Superquinn Shopping Centre on the left, the Marine Hotel on the right and a small shopping scheme with village clock at its centre looked really well on the day. This more modern addition to the Sutton area provides a solid focus to the crossroads. While there is little street furniture, the low walls serve a purpose as demonstrated by some students availing of a place to eat on the day. The Marine Hotel has an impressive facade and dominates its neat and tidy carpark. The 'Superquinn shopping area' was well presented although there were problems with litter referred to beneath. Going further afield the Burrow Road houses are as impressive as ever with their wonderful location (although perhaps not

in Winter) backing onto Sutton Beach. Strand road at the foot of the Hill of boasts magnificent houses with staggering views of Dublin Bay. Some would argue that Sutton catholic church built circa 1970 looks dated, but it is actually a very welcome divergence from the pyramid design style that dominated church building around that period. The old protestant churches on the road into Howth looked magnificent.

### **Landscaping:**

The Sutton Cross area was very well landscaped with magnificent mature trees, particularly fronting the Marine Hotel, planting beds and wall monuted planters adding a splash of colour. Unfortunately the concrete planters at the front of Superquinn look a little tired and could do with some refreshing. With its scattered nature it was difficult to identify any other central landscaping features although the many prominent buildings and houses boasted fine surrounds and lovely gardens which really add to the ambience of the area.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

With so much natural unspoilt areas throughout Sutton, there are plenty of opprtunities for wildlife. From the beach, the golf course, mature trees, wonderful gardens and the maginificent vistas along the foot of Howth hill and the beginning of the cliff walk. The opening of the right of way will be very beneficial in encouraging walks in the area and perhaps that might encourage you to develop a wildlife guide and even establish walking tours providing information on the native flora and fauna that is a available to see locally. This could be great project to work with Birdwatch Ireland which we are very pleased to see you have joined to further consolidate your objectives under this category.

### **Litter Control:**

Sutton is generally litter free throughout, especially in residential areas. The Sutton Cross area was also quite litter free, but unfortunately there was quite a bit of litter in the Superquinn car park on the day of adjudication. We are pleased to hear that St Fintan's National School and Burrow National School have anti-litter programs. It is understandable that you would have a lot of litter wash up on the beach, particularly due to stormy weather. We are pleased that beach clean ups are encouraged and that the secondary schools are involved.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done to St Fintan's National School and the Burrow National School for obtaining their Green Flags. As pointed out above, the bring bank area wasn't looking its best but its great to see you have such facilities and they are clearly being well utilised. Have you considered developing more projects under this category such as information sessions on home composting for residents. Raceagainstwaste.com provides a lot of ideas on developing a waste strategy in your area and a booklet written specifically for community groups is available from the TidyTowns Unit.

### **Tidiness:**

Sutton is generally a very tidy area, and we are glad to hear that the you have specialist anti graffiti workers available to you. That would explain why grafitti isn't the problem it is in other areas, although there was some at the Dart station. It was unfortunate to see a lot of disused items at the bring bank area which was a very high standard in previous years. With Sutton Cross being the epicentre of most activity it is always going to attract most litter, so you would be wise to target this area where possible.

### **Residential Areas:**

As stated above, residential areas are generally well maintained. Santa Sabina Manor looked really well and displayed some attractive light landscaping that was suitable for its seaside location. South Hill was well presented on the day of adjudication as was Binn Eadair View. Some residential areas still have some weed problems, but it is noted a lot of work has been undertaken to counteract this. Have you considered the creation of "Best Street", "Best Garden" or "Tidiest Estate" awards which could raise standards even further and braoden your community base. This has worked really well in other area.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Most roads were in good order and Sutton Cross area doesn't appear to have any major problems on this score. Despite the complicated traffic light layout. the traffic was flowing well on the day of adjudication. The footpath that was replaced on Shielmartin Road is a definite improvement. This area looks much better due to this. The work undertaken on the stone wall was done to a high standard and has good appeal. We recognise that you are trying to get other footpaths upgraded and we wish you well in your endeavours.

### **General Impression:**

Sutton although not a typically defined village definitely has a strong community atmosphere. The work that

has been undertaken has added further appeal to an already very attractive area. We would urge you to consider expanding your current plan as outlined above as you have plenty of potential to move even further up the ranks in the competition in future years. Well done to everyone involved and we hope to visit you again in 2009.