

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Clontarf & Bull Island** Ref: **1205**  
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **232**  
Category: **G** Date(s): **11/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>232</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your entry to the 2009 TidyTowns Competition. You have an active committee with numerous meetings held by your group during the year along with an active involvement in monthly litter collections. Your involvement and continued consultation with both statutory and local bodies particularly relevant to your area is also noted. Thank you for your map which clearly outlined your area. However we feel in order for your group to really make progress in the competition you need to extend your focus and activities. In order to help you do this we would recommend that your group prepare a three to five year plan with both short term and long term tasks identified. This need not be professionally prepared but should set out your clear aims and goals for your area. It will be a very useful tool to help focus your group's efforts and allow you to reach achievable goals in realistic time frames. The other benefit of a plan like this is that it can show people in the wider community the projects you are hoping to undertake and when you hope to achieve them. This can also help you target sponsorship with local bodies that have vested interest in the area and build on successful sponsorship achieved to date.

### **The Built Environment:**

The restoration of the timber bridge out to Bull Island was an excellent project for your area and the bridge has weathered beautifully. Clontarf Village has a number of historic buildings including the red brick shops along Vernon Avenue and the traditional pub frontage of Connollys pub which are a real asset to your village. The new water treatment plant is an innovative way of architecturally treating a necessary part of our infrastructure and really adds interest and variety to the village. Vernon Avenue presented a picture of a street of two sides with the eastern side containing premises which were excellently presented such as Moloughneys and Doyles Pharmacy. Unfortunately the premises on the western side of the street did not live up to their neighbours. A number of the shop signs were damaged and some shop windows were poorly presented. However as a number of the shops were being developed this may be remedied by next years competition. The Credit

Union building on Churchgate Avenue was a sensitive re-use of these older cottages and was well presented. The Church of John The Baptist is a lovely stone building and with well presented grounds.

### **Landscaping:**

The row of shops and restaurants on the eastern side of Vernon Avenue and the Clontarf Road had a beautiful display of hanging baskets which were a credit to all the premises and really enlivened the street. For some reason there were no hanging baskets to this western side of the Avenue, which create an imbalanced look to the street. Maybe the premises on the western side of the street could be encouraged to add some seasonal colour to their façades next year so the street has a more united appearance? The newly developed civic square has created a lovely space in the village and was a delight with people eating their lunches outdoors at the pretty café tables which really enliven the space. The trees, which are an essential part of the space, seem to be showing signs of stress which may be due to a lack of water. Your consultations with the Parks Department may shed light on measure being taken to ensure the long term health of these trees. The grass areas along the seafront were well maintained.

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

The location of Bull Island with its associated beach and dune systems so close to the city is a wonderful resource for your area. The results of your litter collection activities will have a significant effect in protecting the surrounding sensitive habitats. A habitat survey would be a great resource for your group. As Bull Island is such an important resource, regionally and nationally, you should consult with your local authority and relevant environmental organisations to see what work has been done in this area that can help inform your work. You may find that local schools have carried out a survey as part of their work for the green schools project that you can use as part of your submission.

### **Litter Control:**

Well done on your continued efforts, in your eight year, at litter collection, as it really is one of the main focuses of your group. On the day of adjudication the Bull Island and the approach road were free of litter and this is a credit to all your efforts. You do not mention in your submission how you deal with the large amounts of litter collected. Is it segregated and recycled? Your sign advertising the time and location of your regular litter collections was noted on the railings leading to the toilet. Perhaps you could also ask local shops to display posters advertising you activities to recruit more help? Have you considered taking part in An Taisces National Spring Clean Day or enlisting the help of local schools through the Green Schools project? Try to enlist the help of youth groups such as the local unit of sea scouts? Some litter was noted on Vernon Avenue and the bin outside the spar shop was full. The new square was litter free. There was a significant amount of litter around the new wastewater treatment plant. This seems to be a problem area with the litter mainly consisting of aluminium and plastic drinks can. Perhaps a segregated/recycling bin could be installed here to encourage people to segregate and recycle this litter.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

You note in your submission that you work with the Clontarf Business Forum through Dublin City council to progress waste minimisation, though no details are provided. As litter collection is such a focus for your group this is a category that you could really gain points in. How do you deal with the litter collected? Is it segregated at source by your group or by others once you have completed your collections? Are you involved in any initiatives to help reduce the amount of waster generated in your area? Some of your local business may be Repak members and may be willing to work with you on waste reductions programmes and recycling initiatives. Do you know if the green waste from maintaining the landscape areas along the seafront is composted by the Local Authority? All this information can be added to this category and will increase your marks in this area.

### **Tidiness:**

The Village of Clontarf with its new civic space presents a very tidy picture and is a credit to all involved in its redevelopment. The approach to Bull Island and the entry to the beach were all well presented. Some graffiti was noted on the shelters along the promenade and you note in your submission that you are active in removing graffiti from these areas. Some graffiti was also noted on the benches along the seafront path. It is important to try to clean up graffiti as soon as it appears as this is shown to be the most effective way to prevent further accumulation.

The seafront walk was generally well presented with the eye-catching exercise apparatus located at intervals along the path. There was some weed growth along the low wall between the Clontarf Road path and the grass areas. This looked as if it had been recently sprayed but ensure the dead weeds are removed once sprayed to maintain a tidy appearance.

A traffic management and parking system using boulders to delineate and control parking areas at the various vehicular entrances to the beach seem to be working well. Although no provision was made for bicycle parking, with bikes being chained to signage poles. A bike parking area could be developed, using bike lock loops attached to upright timber sleepers or other appropriate form of bike park design which would be suitable in this sensitive setting.

**Residential Areas:**

There are a range of residential areas in Clontarf and they are generally well presented. Both period and more modern developments sit well together and well landscaped gardens and public areas add to the overall tidy feel of the surrounding residential streets. The premises along the Clontarf Road, which face the seafront, range in age and styles and it is important to ensure that gardens and boundary walls are well maintained in this area.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Roads and back areas were generally well presented. The new village square with its seating and bike stands is an excellent addition and surfaces were well presented. The surfaces around the yacht club slipway were uneven and should be addressed.

**General Impression:**

Clontarf is a beautifully presented urban village with the new square a real addition to your village. The links to the seafront and the Bull Island offer great opportunities to the visitor and the community alike and are well maintained. We wish you every success for the future.