

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballybrack** Ref: **168**
County: **Dublin(DunLaoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **241**
Category: **D** Date(s): **05/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	18
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	241

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 competition. Thank you for your maps which made it easy to locate the areas, which you have worked on. Your 3 Year Environmental Programme is comprehensive and is progressing.

Do not despair about an apparent lack of involvement by the general community. As you make progress and a visible improvement to the town more people will come to respect your achievements and become involved.

Despite your small team you have submitted another well considered and comprehensive entry to the TidyTowns Competition.

Your Environmental Programme is a useful check list of the areas you can influence and I hope you will get real satisfaction over time in checking off many of its tasks.

Hopefully you will gain the support of local traders; the image of the village is their business image and must influence local trade volumes.

You might also consider the benefits of a local tidy estate or best garden competition, which might encourage more community participation.

The Built Environment:

Ballybrack is a vibrant mixture of architectural styles ranging over the last century with good examples of modern and older residential developments. The central village look well and inviting. The pavements are well designed and the general impression is appealing.

There is a notable absence of street and road name signs.

The area around the monument is well landscaped but no information is evident as to what the monument celebrates or commemorates.

Recent housing developments are an asset to the town.

I am impressed with your monitoring of planning applications and tenacious investigation of derelict sites.

Keep up this good work.

Footpaths are now improves at the Ridge Apartment development.

The Victorian style lamp standards look well in the village area.

The speed of traffic travelling along Shanganagh Road and the very narrow foot paths outside of the shopping areas are issues. They might be address by the local authority in an overall traffic calming scheme for the village area.

Landscaping:

Well done on your determination to restore the trees on Wyattville Road Its a major access route to the village. The old chestnut tree is in good condition but looks very isolated. At the time of my visit the verges here were weed free and mulched ready for planting.

I was impressed with the landscaping at the entrance to The Nurseries. and indeed with the design of hard neat landscaping at the entrance to Dale View.

Hopefully the appeal of the neighbouring estates will encourage residents of meadow Court to organise a trim back of overhanging hedges at the entrance.

The landscaping at the entrance to Firgrove Estate was also impressive with a nice use of stonework.

Some of the cottage gardens on Mountain view are a delight.

The landscaping and maintenance of the shrubbery at the block of shops on Church Road and around the seating area on the far side of the road opposite to the Credit Union look well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

What a pity that your plans for a bio-diversity project have had to be postponed. That entire length of the Shanganagh Road holds a valuable wildlife habitat along its hedge rows. Their survival should be monitored carefully in the face of upcoming road schemes.

Access to and an understanding of wildlife is very important, especially for children in an urban area. The suggestions of last years judge are still equally valid an applicable. Help in organising suitable projects for schools are available from Birdwatch Ireland

Your community could also be involved in national events such as Heritage Week and Biodiversity Week. Guidelines for creating a Biodiversity Action Plan are available on the Notice Nature website.

Litter Control:

I was impress by the lack of litter evident a around the central village.

I have the impression that you have helped to considerably improve the cleanliness of this area with the achievement of more frequent sweepings.

A disappointing black spot was the lane-way from Ennel Court to Shanganagh Road, which needs attention. Perhaps that is an area that it's local residents could take in hand.

Hopefully the ESB will similarly take responsibility for the land in front of its transformer on Wyatville Road.

The national Cleaning Day plays an important part in encouraging litter awareness amongst residents.

There is still an opportunity for more and better located bins in the village area, an issue which you are dealing with.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a category where your village could score a lot of extra point in the competition.

I am not clear if your local schools have had any involvement in the Green School Programme this year. It is an important opportunity for students in your area not only to learn about environmental issues such as litter, energy, travel and water, but also allows the students take ownership of these issues themselves, and to make plans on how to improve these areas within the school and the wider community.

Race against Waste (raceagainstwaste.com) provides information on developing a waste strategy in your community. A booklet is available from the Tidy Towns Unit, which includes plenty of suggestions for residents, as well as businesses on how to reduce waste.

Tidiness:

The village generally looks neat and tidy. Graffiti however is still a problem. It was most evident around the Monument and also on the seat on Church Road.

Tackling this problem requires wide community involvement in making a determined effort to ensure that it is removed quickly. A new graffiti reduction programme was lunched in 2008. I has good advice on graffiti removal and community projects that offer an alternative for the spray can would be artist. Information can be

found on the Pobal website and in your information pack supplied by the TidyTowns.

Residential Areas:

The completion of a number of developments in your area has improved its image. The Ridge Apartment development and the housing development along Wyatville Road will now slowly blend into the fabric of the village.

Many of the older residential areas already praised in the paragraphs on landscaping are well maintained and an delight.

Sadly the traffic along Shanganagh Road is even effecting the image of the gardens and perhaps the inclination of it's residents to spend any time gardening beside a busy road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some improvements since last year notably along the lane from Church Road to the Church

Most of the back lanes and streets were in good condition. The exceptions were the weeds along the entrance to the church from Military Road and weeds and graffiti along the entrance to the delightful cottages on Mountain View Road.

General Impression:

The village is looking well. I enjoyed my visit. You are doing a great job with a small team, keep up the good work.