

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blackrock**

Ref: **167**

County: **Dublin(DunLaoghaire-Rathdown)**

Mark: **228**

Category: **F**

Date(s): **30/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	228

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations on your entry which shows and that you have a very enthusiastic and effective committee. Its work has resulted in real improvements this year.

You have a committee of members with a wide reach through the community. .

Your links with the Local Authority, particularly its architects should pay dividends in the long term. Already links with the management of the shopping center have paid off with clear benefits.

Your map was useful to this visitor but clear indications on it of the locations of features mentioned might have saved some footwork.

The Built Environment:

Gentle pressure applied correctly can have amazing results.

Your consistent monitoring of derelict sites and local eyesores will encourage progress and encourage results. I was impressed with your establishing ownership of one particular site.

Your work in having the area around the underpass at the end of Carysfort Avenue is a real achievement.

Sadly weeds are again taking over the space.

The visual chaos of this site with its' exposed gable wall of a former house offers a grim welcome to motorists into Blackrock.

In the long term plans might be made for a substantial screening of the gable end with tall trees. If the underpass were to be removed a nice site for a pocket park or a book end landmark type building would arise.

The Heritage trail notice board beside the rail station is a well designed asset.

The derelict public toilets at the entrance to Blackrock Park might happily disappear or be re-furbished.

Landscaping:

Blackrock has a rich selection of parks.

Keep gentle pressure on the Local Authority to see that even before complete refurbishment of Blackrock Park to see that the band stand and tea rooms are painted. A suitable short term project might be a welcome sign and map displayed at its imposing entrance.

I was impressed with the dual but separately marked cycle way and foot paths in the parks.

How about a few more seats in Rockfield Park for tired adjudicators and older Backrockers?

The pond at Caryfort Park presents a great opportunity for a community based clean up day, perhaps ending with a community picnic in the park.

Well done on the real improvements to Tobernea Park and the Dolmen Sculpture.

The Blackrock Dolmen is a very special art work set in appropriate hard landscaping. I do not think that it needs flowers at its base.

Well done on real achievement with the hanging baskets on the main street. The compliment the streetscape rather than overpowering it. Again further real progress with the good quality landscaping in the car parks.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The suggestions by last years a adjudicator will of course take some time to implement.

In the short term perhaps a few child friendly signs in the parks distinguishing various varieties of plants and wild life would be educational for people of all ages.

Well done on recognising the coastal area as a very important wild life habitat as well as an amenity. Keep the pressure up for access signs to the beach. The excused for not providing them are weak and unsustainable.

Your long term plans in this category are commendable.

Litter Control:

There has been a substantial improvement in litter management in the town. The main streets and adjoining areas were impressively free of litter. The extra bins were a help. I note no litter in the laneway behind Idrone Terrace. One black spot was the path from Blackrock Park to the railway station. Overall, well done.

Waste Minimisation:

This is an area where there is great potential for you to gain marks and indeed with carefully considered educational programmes greatly influence public behaviour

Tidiness:

Graffiti is a major problem in the town. Graffiti is however often a form of a signature. The local police might be able to identify the authors. There are only a few culprits and they should be relatively easy to detect. Many of the town's untidy features are the responsibility of the local authority. Street furniture on Idrone Terrace is very shabby. It should be repaired or removed. This could be a useful project for you to source sponsorship and deliver well designed seats and bins, to what is the towns only terrace onto the coast. There was a welcome absence of fly poster at the time of my inspection.

Residential Areas:

Blackrock has a rich variety of residential architecture spanning most styles or the last 200 years. Areas were generally neat and clean, and estates take an evident pride in their public spaces. Keep up contact with residents associations. The advice of last assessor might be profitably implemented in establishing a "Tidy Estate" or Best Street" awards.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There has been a considerable improvement in this category. The landscaping of the shopping centre car park and the finishing of the QBC on Mount Merrion Avenue are great improvements. Verges are well maintained and well done.

General Impression:

Your efforts are delivering results. The town is again developing a sense of identity, in part thank to you hard work. Keep it up

