

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sandycove**

Ref: **177**

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

Mark: **260**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **02/07/2009**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 39 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 31 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 26 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 39 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 12 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 20 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 25 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 260 |

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your very comprehensive submission. You have a very active committee with a wide range of contacts which shows in results on the ground. You have an impressive system for liaison with the Local Authority particularly with respect to litter management. I was also impressed with your list of sponsors, and supporting organisations. Perhaps you should now seek help with setting up your own web pages. Keep it up.

The Built Environment:

Sandycove has a precious number of Victorian residences which are worth protection. Your monitoring of the planning lists will help in this endeavour. An unwelcome trend of very high fencing in front garden, emerging along Sandycove Avenue West should be discouraged. A further visual scourge of these times are more unfinished building sites. Well done on ensuring that hoarding around sites is kept graffiti and fly poster free. The improvement to the wall at end of Ballygihan Avenue is welcome. The new public toilets on Sandycove Avenue West are well designed, clean, and appear so far to have defied the vandals. I was impressed with the condition of guide rails etc in the Forty-foot bathing Place but rust was evident on light standards nearby. You are correct about the huge sign outlining forbidden activities at the Forty-foot. It seems a little overwhelming and unnecessary. One rarity you enjoy is the letter box beside at the end of Sandycove Avenue West on the wall to the scuba diving club. It is unusual because it has an Saortacht Eireann Logo rather than the more unusual royal ciphers. Worth keeping an eye on and ensuring that it is not lost with the ongoing rationalisation of the postal collection services.

Landscaping:

The re-seeded lawns, planters, and hanging baskets are welcome improvements. However the abundance of

small plants still at the bases of trees in the village is unnecessary. Similarly apparently fresh planting at the entrance to the Forty-foot seems weak. A few sturdy shrubs might work better throughout the year. Paths through the park area around the sub aqua club are in poor condition. A revamp of the club-house and park are a worthy of a long term plan

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Sandycove is blessed in its stunning locating beside the coast. The sea and it's shore is of course a vastly rich wild life habitat. A great educational opportunity exists to place child and adult friendly information board and discrete locations along the coastal walks. How nice it would be to have help in the variety of wildlife within view. Well done on installing the nest boxes. You have well considered projects planned which I hope will bear results for next year.

Litter Control:

There has been an improvement in litter control this year. The coastal walks, main village shopping area, and residential area were all largely litter free at the time of my inspection. Well done. Your work in this area has paid off.

Waste Minimisation:

Waste management is at first an educational issue. You have already had success with an information leaflet on using the green bin. Its good to hear of your follow up with public information talks, information on composting and a raffle with a composting bin as a prize. Your plans for used battery boxes in shops are very worthwhile. I noted the well managed appearance and tidiness the recycling Centre in Eden Park. In time your lecture and other initiatives will have real benefits on the amount of waste going to landfill. Good luck with the Used Battery Boxes in shops.

Tidiness:

You have maintained your high standard in this category. I was impressed at the absence of graffiti. Rust on utility sign is going to be an ongoing problem but your good influence can go a long way to ensure that they are maintained regularly. There was a noticeable and welcome absence of weeds along sides of paths. Sadly, I noted, that the Peace Tree replanted last March has again fallen victim to vandalism. Don't give up on it.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas general appeared well maintained. I am attracted to your tactful approach of offering assistance to "members of the community who are unable to maintain their properties to the standards they are comfortable with". A little positive help is often far more welcome and effective than a critical approach

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads street and back areas visited all appeared in reasonable condition. Street signs were similarly clean and clear.

Limiting parking to one side of the busiest streets renders movement easier and safer. Keep up you vigilance to ensure continuous maintenance of street furniture signs etc.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit this well organised seaside town. Your hard work is evident in its' general smart appearance. Please keep up the good work