

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shankill**

Ref: **1101**

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

Mark: **273**

Category: **F**

Date(s): **04/07/2009**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 35 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 34 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 37 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 29 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 31 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 11 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 20 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 30 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 37 |
| General Impression | 10 | 9 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 273 |

Overall Development Approach:

Well done on another considered and comprehensive entry to the TidyTowns Competition. I am delighted that you are persisting with your efforts to improve your town. Your work has shown further improvements this year to an already established high standard. Thank you for our map. It was a great help in my finding my way around your town. You now have a wide ranging level of contact and respect in you community and a huge influence on its appearance and sense of community. I like your simple slogan "Shankill Matter" which is very effective. Your contact with the Local Authority, the Dart Authority, local traders, churches and community organisations is impressive. Your contact with Choices and local schools also has been effective and impressive. You are correct in believing that as your improvements around the town are seen, they will cause an uptake in participation in the your organisation.

The Built Environment:

Shankill Dart Station is a credit to your work. It is now well maintained and welcoming. The new railings are particularly elegant. The mosaic mural created last year is weathering well. Painting the railing to the station and over the bridge makes a forbidding space attractive. Good luck persuading the ESB to clean up the boundary to the sub station. The improved pathways along Quinn Road to the tennis club are welcome and neat. There is a new development in the built environment now, the unwelcome sight of empty commercial buildings and in your case an empty shopping centre. Your committee has a valuable input to make with the planning authority about what replaces such dereliction. I enjoyed the surprise of the mosaics on the main street pavement.

Landscaping:

Your landscaping work with planters and baskets on the main street were very successful. The street with it's

mixture of shop fronts and signage is somewhat more uniform because of the planting. Good choice of paving and street furniture such as the direction sign to facilities available in the village. A few seats along main street would be a worth while addition. The wide pavement looks well. I was also impressed with the wide planted shrub border on the far side of the street between the pavement and the front gardens opposite the shops. Grass verges into the town were clean and neat. I have reservations about the need for planted ceramic pots and young trees outside of the impressive granite piers and iron gates to Shanganagh Park. The entrance is already very impressive and needs no further adornment. Consider planting of shrubs rather than flowers on the roundabout at the end of Quinns Road. Keep up pressure to have the area of spoil removed and the ground seeded beside the new foot path to the tennis club. I was impress at the time of my visit to see a Sergeant working on the garden to the front of the Garda station.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Yes, you are wise to try to have access to the natural amenity of the coast improved and sign-posted. Present access is problematic. Dorney Court Woods are now looking better thanks to you. Your plans for a "Nature Park" there are worthy of support and encouragement. On a smaller scale I was impressed that the natural habitat under the tress at Shanganagh Grove was spared the strimmer. Your message about the natural environment is taking root. Your contacts with Birdwatch Ireland have paid dividends. Shanganagh Park is a delight, thoughtfully and well managed. It was being enjoyed by a considerable number of people at the time of my inspection.

Litter Control:

I was impressed by the lack of litter evident in the town. Two black spots however, were, the car park outside of the railway station, and the cap parking bays directly opposite the Credit Union building. Your litter patrols are intelligently organised. Allowing people to select their own time to help is very effective. I came across litter volunteer picking up litter on Corebawn Lane on the evening of my inspection. In this area you really have got your community motivated.

Waste Minimisation:

I like the idea of you School Fete, which is in effect a swap shop, recycling at it's best. The internet "Swap Shop" concept will I believe be a great local success.

Tidiness:

The town is very well presented, but a few less auctioneers sign in the village would be an improvement. The derelict shopping centre may continue to be an eyesore for sometime. Both the Crinken halting Site and the waste facility were tidy and well maintained at the time of my visit. The car park at the station has a shabby looking temporary surface and the mounds of spoil around it are untidy. The railing along Corbawn Lane is well maintained. Your anti-graffiti programme is working well. Considerable work has been undertaken to improve the appearance of the area around the Choices site. A project you might look at is the harsh setting around the Shankill Senior Citizens Centre. A little thoughtful planting would greatly improve this facility.

Residential Areas:

The success of your organisation is evident in the well maintained house and gardens throughout the town. I was impressed particularly with the older Cherrington Estate, the neat new paths along Quinns Road and the character of houses along Lower Road and New Vaale. Recent developments generally fit in well and are properly finished and landscaped.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some improvements since last year notably along Quinns Lane. The access roads to the beach however are picturesque but not adequate.

General Impression:

The village is looking well. I enjoyed my visit. I was impressed to see people on the ground working to improve the town. I have the impression that it is a very pleasant place to live with a real sense of community.