

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Stepaside**

Ref: **1013**

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

Mark: **213**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **03/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	23
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	213

Overall Development Approach:

Well done on this second consecutive entry to the TidyTowns Competition. We are delighted that you are persisting with your efforts to improve your town. Your work has shown real results this year. As you continue the progress of your committee, the range of skills of it's members will increase and your "reach" within the community will deepen. Even now it might be worth your while to draw up a list of potential long and short term projects and formulate them into an Action Plan, perhaps based over three or five years.

The Built Environment:

The worst now appears to be over for the town. Most of the major developments which have transformed it over the past decade are finished and now you can see what you have and how best to enjoy and display it. I was impressed with the quality of the new build, not only the houses, apartments and commercial buildings but also the new footpaths and kerbs. Your work at the police station has improved it. The Step Inn looked well cared for and thoughtfully extended. Signage is generally well considered. One black spot seeking attention is the entrance to the Irish Conservatory premises and it's front yard. There are a few cottages with un-cared for gardens on Stapaside Lane, which could do with a clean up even if they are awaiting redevelopment.

Landscaping:

I was impressed by the thoughtful landscaping of the entrance to Stepside Park. Try to ensure that it, and other planted areas do not grow to hide the area's nameplates. Well done on identifying the entrance to St Patrick's Park as the village's potential focal point. Your choice of planting was wise and will mature well. Another potential project for you to improve the landscaping around the steps from St Patricks Park to Kiligobbin Road. It would be a good idea to ensure that cut grass is removed. I noted that this was not done

on the large open spaces at St Patrick's Park the window boxes on the windows of the Police Station looked well. There has been an improvement in this category since last year, well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I understand that this category could benefit from special expertise, but hopefully there may be such a person amongst your new residents. Local schools can often be driving force in adoption. I liked the wild grass verge along the undeveloped side of Stepside Lane and hope there might be a few more planned by next year.

Litter Control:

Residential areas were neat, largely litter free at the time of my inspection. However I think some attention should be paid to the areas around the seating opposite St Patrick's Park, and the parking bays outside of the shops. Keep up contact with the schools anti-litter drives. Children can often be the worst litter culprits. When well motivated, they can be the loudest deterrent to other would be litter louts. The provision of additional litter bins will help the situation.

Waste Minimisation:

This relatively new category presents an opportunity for your committee. Forge links with your local schools and their initiatives in this area. There is huge goodwill towards the general principle of waste minimisation. What is required is information distributed locally on best practice and encouragement. Perhaps you would consider organising a workshop on waste management in your area, or a community awareness day on as part of a series of local initiatives. If you get involved you will find that you are pushing at an open door.

Tidiness:

The village looks well and will mature to an impressive urban space. Some graffiti on the rear of signs out of the Village on the road to the south should be removed. I noted an amount of what looked like builder's rubble dumped on the newly seeded grass margins also on this road. You might contact letting agents to ask that to ensure that vacant premises are kept free of fly-posting and clean. Your attention to signage was paid off.

Residential Areas:

The new residential areas benefit from the landscaping schemes completed by the developer. These are, I was glad to see, being well maintained and the general upkeep of estates was high. The open spaces at St Patrick's Park are prominent in the village. I look forward to seeing your plans take root there. The gardens fronting onto Kilgobbin Road were a particular pleasure to see. In general the roads kerbs and footpaths were in very good condition,

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads and streets are very well maintained. I think that the new granite pavement seems to highlight every spot of dirt and chewing gum, and might be hard to maintain in a pristine condition.

General Impression:

The village is looking well. Traffic can be a problem at evening rush hours. I am delighted that you are continuing with the Tidy Towns Competition and I wish you well for next year.