

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Clondalkin (Monastery Gate)** Ref: **1991**  
County: **Dublin(South)** Mark: **181**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	20
The Built Environment	50	20
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>181</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Monastery Gate is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included photographs of community members engaged in Tidy Towns work; it would be a good idea to keep a 'before and after' photographic record of progress made by the community. One of your first tasks must be to compile a planned work programme spread over at least three years to guide your progress in the competition; submit a copy each year showing what has been achieved in that year. Monastery Gate is different from most entrants in the competition in that there are no civic or commercial buildings so success will be in the hands of residents with the help of South Dublin County Council and the Parks Department. It is good to note the high level of voluntary effort achieved to date and the communications initiatives by circular and AGM.

### **The Built Environment:**

The absence of commercial and civic buildings requires that a high level of maintenance and presentation is essential in respect of residential properties. Consideration might be given to the construction of a gazebo and / or pergolas or other public amenity within the large green open space.

### **Landscaping:**

The large green area mentioned above is being nicely maintained however there is a notable lack of public seated amenity and other recreational areas within the development. A hard surfaced landscaped area may also be an option. In the choice of planting pay attention to seasonal interest and colour and plant for year round effect. Choose plants that are supportive of local wild life.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

A good start to competing under this heading would be to conduct a wild life survey of the area; wildlife is everywhere and the goal under this heading is to identify what you have, what are the threats to what you have and devise a plan to protect it. A start could be made with a bird count of species and numbers involved. Residents could be encouraged to install bird boxes in their gardens and individual households could be involved in the survey; children can participate also. When you start looking it is surprising what can be found!

**Litter Control:**

Well done on the almost litter free appearance of Monastery Gate on adjudication day; the regular clean-ups are obviously successful as is the liaison with the Gardai and litter warden. It is important that collected litter is segregated for recycling. The children of Monastery Gate are to be praised for their commitment to maintaining their area litter free.

**Waste Minimisation:**

It is good to note the intention to colour code collected waste to facilitate recycling. To compete successfully under this heading individual households should be encouraged to establish the amount of waste they generate and a community strategy devised to minimise the overall amount of waste produced.

**Tidiness:**

The 'Twenty Minute Makeover' initiative is an excellent idea that cannot fail to produce the required results. Well done on the prompt treatment of graffiti and the removal of abandoned cars. It was good to note the absence of dumped materials.

**Residential Areas:**

All roadside boundary walls and fencing to residential properties must be maintained to the highest standard; it is good to note that the wall on the main road has been identified for improvement together with the black railing enclosure. Side areas and rear areas that can be viewed from the public domain also be presented to a high standard given that dwellings make up 100% of Monastery Gate. It might be a good idea for each estate to feature a particular plant/tree perhaps in gardens to create greater differentiation and add visual interest.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The granite 'estate signs' is an excellent initiative that will strengthen the identity of Monastery Gate and of course be visually appealing. As noted above there is a shortage of public seating for common areas. Plans to maintain road signs and other street furniture are appropriate and commendable. The (almost) weed free aspect of kerbs and walls is noted.

**General Impression:**

The 'Beautiful Monastery Gate' committee and the community of Monastery Gate are to be congratulated on a fine presentation for a first entry in the TidyTowns Competition. We look forward to charting your progress.