

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyfermot** Ref: **156**  
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **230**  
Category: **F** Date(s): **12/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>230</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2009 TidyTowns competition and thank you for your entry form and supporting literature, including photographs, which were most helpful. Your annotated map, indicating areas of interest, was also very useful to have on adjudication day. Your group has worked very hard this year and all your efforts have been noted and are contributing to the development of Ballyfermot as a centre with a real community focus. A natural progression for your submission would be to break down some of your planned projects into short and long term goals. This will help focus your group's efforts and allow you to reach achievable goals in realistic time frames. The other benefit of a plan like this it that it can show people in the wider community the projects you are hoping to undertake and when you hope to achieve them. This can also help you target sponsorship and build on successful sponsorship achieved to date and will also help you gain additional marks in this category.

### **The Built Environment:**

Ballyfermot has benefited from a number of new developments in the last few years which are a real credit to your community and sit well with the established residential neighbourhoods. In particular the development of new community resources such as the New Sports and Community Centre on Blackditch Road, The Orchard Equine Centre and the Community Civic Centre. They have all been completed to a high standard with the public areas around the Sports Centre complementing the adjoining LeFanu Park.

As in previous years the schools and colleges within your area were all presented to a high standard from the flash of colour provided by the bedding plants at the De La Salle School to the green flag once again flying at St Michael's School. Generally the commercial and shopping areas were well kept with the large planters around the Le Fanu Road adding colour. The Garda Station and premises around Drumfinn Park were especially well kept with the window boxes at the Ballyfermot /Chapelizod Partnership deserving a mention.

The grounds of the Church of the Most Holy Sacrament were beautifully maintained.

### **Landscaping:**

The development of Cherry Orchard Park has created a beautiful and attractive space for the community. The use of wild flower meadows with a neat trim to the path edge meant the park was awash with flowering daisies on the day of adjudication and was a real contrast to some of the empty grass spaces to be seen in some other areas of Ballyfermot.

We note that it is planned to plant 340 new trees throughout Ballyfermot and hope that they can be successfully established in some of these other green spaces to further enhance your area. The successful planting of trees including native oak at the pocket green space between Ballyfermot Road and Blackditch Road and at Croftwood Park was encouraging to see. We look forward to seeing how these areas mature in the coming years. Have you considered approaching the local schools or youth groups to help as part of the tree planting teams and perhaps using the events of National Tree week to publicise your efforts. Information on National Tree week can be obtained from the Tree Council of Ireland with information on support packs that may be of use to you.

The photographs of your spring clean also showed the attractive effect of spring bulbs planted en masse at the Californian Hills Park where the new fitness equipment was admired.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The wild bird identification workshops seem to have been a great success and well done to all involved. Perhaps as part of next years project, if funding can be secured, you could consider some of the schools carrying out wild bird surveys within the school grounds? This could be linked in to the recent tree and shrub planting, carried out in the school grounds, to see how successful they have been at enhancing the school grounds for wild birds. Birdwatch Ireland has advice on how to draw maps of bird activity around schools that could be used as a basis for a survey. This survey could form part of a wider survey of what habitats and wildlife you have in your area. A simple survey such as this can help inform where more planting may be needed and what types of plants can best enhance biodiversity in your area. The Biodiversity Officer in Dublin City Council should be able to give you advice on where to start. This survey could be developed into a Wildlife Management Plan which could form part of an overall Tidy Towns Annual Plan. Ballyfermot has a variety of open spaces scattered through your area which could form part of a valuable habitat network if planted and maintained correctly. A study such as this will help you gain additional marks in this category

Well done on your plant sale carried out as part of Ballyfermot Environment Week. Try to ensure you highlight biodiversity friendly plants for sale and perhaps you could also consider selling bird tables, bird food or nesting boxes at the sale.

### **Litter Control:**

Thank you for your photographs of your April Spring Clean which looks to have been a great success for all involved. Have you any plans for more regular litter collections or patrols? Overall on the day of adjudication the commercial areas were generally low in litter and on the whole the surrounding residential areas were well maintained. There was some litter dumped on the waste ground at Cedarbrook Way/Barnville Park but the adjoining housing areas at Barnville Park were clean and tidy in spite of this so well done to the residents here. It would be interesting to hear the results of the attitude to litter survey carried out by the Caritas College students and see what solutions they may have come up with for the issues identified as a result of their survey.

The bring centres at the Community Centre and Ballyfermot Road were well maintained, well signposted and free of litter. The new community buildings in the area were well kept and on the day of adjudication staff from the sports centre were collecting litter from the new car park areas.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Once again the Ballyfermot Environment week has been used as a vehicle to drive home the litter free and waste minimisation message and is a great vehicle to inform the public of the ways and means to recycle and reduce waste generated by the community. We hope your efforts to advertise the availability of compost bins and water butts has been successful. It would be useful to know how the litter generated from your Spring clean was dealt with. Was it segregated as it was being collected? There is scope for Ballyfermot to develop more initiatives under this category and garner additional marks. Some of the businesses in your areas may be part of the Repak scheme and details of their efforts could form part of this category. In addition the newer

community buildings may have innovative waste management strategies. These can all count towards your marks and should be included in future submissions.

### **Tidiness:**

Although some graffiti was noted in general, considering the size of Ballyfermot, the area was tidy. Where graffiti was noted such as on the boundary wall at Barnville Park and the entrance to the Health Centre efforts had obviously been made to remove previous graffiti and try to keep on top of the situation. Are there any anti-graffiti campaigns being run in the area? Dublin City Council promotes an anti-graffiti message through the Green Schools including information on the impact of graffiti vandalism, how it can be prevented and how everyone can do their part to help. Some residential areas did contain weeds but we recognise that you are encouraging residents to look after these areas.

Thank you for your photographs showing the efforts of students of St Michaels National School weeding and planting to the bases of trees near their schools. They did a great job and are to be congratulated.

### **Residential Areas:**

Generally residential areas were kept to a good standard. The planting bed at the entrance to Barnville, once it establishes, will improve the entrance area and the use of thorny climbing plants should help tackle some of the problems you have here. Perhaps the planting of wall shrubs could be continued along this wall as part of your next year's works? Shrubs and bushy plants near the base of walls help restrict access to walls and so discourage graffiti. The landscaping around Cedar Brook is maturing nicely and overall was very well maintained. The tubs and planted beds at the Community Civic centre were also admired.

We would also like to congratulate all the residents of Fr Lemass Court on the beautiful display of pots and planters outside resident's doors and along the balcony. The roof garden area was also beautifully maintained and full of colour. A special thanks to Mr Walsh on showing us his work and we wish him all the best. We wish residents groups well in the City Neighbourhood Competition and would recommend that you look into the creation of awards such as the 'Best Garden' or 'Tidiest Street'. A number of very well maintained gardens were admired during adjudication so we are sure awards such as these would be hotly contested.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The planter boxes and tall planters full of seasonal colour along the Ballyfermot Road were a welcome addition. There was weed growth along some of the residential roads and along garden boundaries and we note that you are encouraging local residents groups to clear weeds from these areas, so good luck with this. The roundabouts in the area were generally well maintained with a special mention for the roundabout at Cherry Orchard Grove and Cherry Orchard Avenue. It was beautifully presented, full of colour and weed free.

### **General Impression:**

The general impression is of an area that has benefited from the development of new community resources, parks and buildings which we hope will add to the evident civic and community pride in your area. The challenge will be to ensure these new resources are kept and run to a high standard. The use of local initiatives such as the Ballyfermot Environment Week, are a really useful tool to concentrate resources on a set event to try to get your messages across and garner support for your efforts. Although Ballyfermot is a large urban area your efforts are making a real difference as to how it evolves and we look forward to your continued success