

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cabinteely**

Ref: **1334**

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

Mark: **256**

Category: **D**

Date(s): **04/07/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	32	34
The Built Environment	50	31	33
Landscaping	50	30	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	28
Litter Control	50	29	33
Waste Minimisation	20	6	6
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	32
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	400	247	256

Overall Development Approach:

Cabinteely TidyTowns Team is welcome to the 2011 TidyTowns Competition. Your committee of ten appear to be an active group and very much involved with keeping the village litter free. It is a credit to your standing in the community that you appear well funded by various agencies and businesses. The competition values engagement with the schools so well done on your generous contribution to the Community School's biodiversity project. Did this project progress your wildlife ambitions in any way? Your comment on the Dawn Chorus is noted and, of course, prompts questions that will not be asked. One hopes that you participated in an unofficial capacity as the Dawn Chorus event raises awareness of bird life in your area. Well done on compiling your 3 Year Plan.

While your map was most helpful in defining the area for adjudication one felt that it should have included more information. A major omission is the New Parish Community Centre. One also felt that the old house of Joe McGrath and the many buildings up there should have been mentioned. In fact the Green was not mentioned in your map other than the entrance.

The Built Environment:

One feels that there are two centres, if not three centres of activity in Cabinteely: the village centre, the Big House complex and the little shopping area on Glen Drive. All merit attention from your committee. If the latter area were to benefit from your attention as the village centre has done then it would be transformed. The built environment of the village centre is a credit to all owners and occupiers of the buildings and the agencies that support them. The junction or crossroads is a joy. Even the older houses, including the front wall of the old house, are alive with their coats of fresh paint. So much colour and so shiny! The buildings also produce an array colours through the use of the window boxes. Much of the village still has a traditional appearance and the treatment of the buildings reinforces the village sense. The front facades still survive in

some buildings but the more modern appearance of those around the corner harmonises well with the surroundings. In fact businesses and residential, old and new, all seem to harmonise. Turn right at the barbers and one encounters the greater mass of the modern build. It is fortunate that those three buildings are proximate to one another, the rendering on each helping to form an attractive pattern. The adjudicator cycled up to the great house and got very little opportunity to nose about as a workman sent adjudicator and offending bike packing. But what was to be seen was a delight, a central part of the heritage of Cabinteely. The sculptured faces fascinated. Promote this area. Were it not for a photo you enclosed on a brochure the adjudicator might never have gone nosing about and would have missed this gem. The information board at the lodge is most helpful. And the lodge. One sees no mention of it in your 3 Year Plan. But one is pleased to read of your efforts to support the Garda Station and the Garage, presumably the site of an old dance hall. What about a heritage trail in Cabinteely? That dance hall could figure. As would the Carnegie Library. The Gaeilge adds to the traditional ambience. Well done on extending the area that you wish to take under your wing at Lehaunstown Road. The sign post suggested that there would be a Church somewhere on that road that could be of interest. Is it part of your brief and if so where is it located? The appearance of Bóthar Baile Eoin in the old script brings Gaeltacht days to mind.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is sublime. Your committee seems to have much support in the community. How else could the window boxes have appeared looking so healthy on all the windows you wish to mention. The evidence of green fingers is to be found as soon as one leaves the N11 with the landscaping at the name stone. It is an uplifting start to a visit to Cabinteely. This approach road to the village is wonderful as the landscaping at the Church chimes in with that at the stone. Is there a need for the flower tubs here at the church? Surely the planting suffices. The adjudicator felt the work done around the corner was a joy. The provision of opportunities to plant between the parking spaces showed the vision of some person or agency and the resultant colour proves how worthwhile the provision was. The trees that have propagated themselves throughout Cabinteely are a major element of the wildlife heritage of the village. But there is evidence of a continuous programme of planting also. Your 3 Year Plan does not make any provision for tree planting. Maybe this is an area that could be revisited.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Cabinteely has got great potential in his section. A stream flows through the park and on through Brennanstown Estate where it is well fenced and protected. There is the marsh area in here. There are trees in abundance and wild areas in the vicinity of the village, for instance, your biodiversity garden. But there is no progress in this section. Why are you at a standstill? Last year's adjudicator pointed you in worthwhile directions. One notices an almost edgy tone of impatience to that report. This year's report also has an edge. You need the decisive push to get you moving.

Litter Control:

You will be pleased that not a shred of litter was found in the area of the village centre. There was no sign of chewing gum or of butts. A great achievement in a busy area. Therefore your litter picks and clean-ups are effective. There were bits of litter along the Old Bray road and on the other cul de sac at Clonkeen and in one or two estates. Litter awareness strategy is the way forward in this contest with the litter bug. It is most regrettable that you do not get support from the schools. One is pleased to see that one school has its Green Flag blowing proudly in the wind. One did spot a notice about dog fouling.

Waste Minimisation:

This is another section that causes you difficulty. Well done on the cigarette butts at the Bank of Ireland. But that is a litter control measure. Read again what last year's adjudicator had to say about measures to reduce the amount of material going to landfill. The achievement of Green Flag Status for St Brigid's is a great achievement and will impact on the homes of the children involved. Read 'Race Against Waste' and visit the Dublin City Council website on waste minimisation. That will stimulate definable projects that are achievable by you.

Tidiness:

Cabinteely presents itself as a very tidy entity. Good quality foot paths and weed free kerbs help create this tidy impression. On the country roads walls that are free of weeds at their base also help. One felt, as you agree in your submission, that the area leading out to the Old Bray Road needs attention. Even the parking is being interfered with by the growth. Traffic flows very well throughout the village. The parking provisions are creative and necessary. Great use is made of road width around the park entrance and again on the quieter Old Bray Road. Graffiti does intrude from time to time but your efforts to make it disappear are noted and worthy. The Clonkeen cul de sac has untidy elements. The gate into the walkway after Carraig Glen is in need of repair. The new area that you have undertaken at Lehaunstown Road does provide a challenge under this heading.

Residential Areas:

Your category D status shows that this village could also be described as a town. The area is densely populated but one does not notice the density except, maybe, up Glen Drive. Estates are well secluded by the many trees and by being set back in seclusion from the road all along Brennanstown Road. The estates are beautifully landscaped and where possible the approach avenues are most pleasing to the eye. The estates range in age but not in standard of presentation. One example that stands out is the modern Brennanstown Estate. The sensitivity of the approach area to its surroundings, as one drives into the estate, is outstanding. The marsh and stream are protected, as are the children at play. Throughout this estate there is a sense of spaciousness. Let's not forget to mention the older houses around the junction. They still retain their charm. Maybe it is their age gives them their charm.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There cannot be a village in the country that provides more contrasting features on a road in and out of that village than Cabinteely. In the space of two hundred yards one leaves the manic traffic on the N11 and drives to the lights at Johnstown Road. One is now surrounded by buildings. Cross the road to Brennanstown Road and you are in the country or so it seems. Beautiful. And then one could say that the other two roads to town end in cul de sacs. Quaint. Johnstown Road has been dealt with. Brennanstown Road provides a wonderful approach to Cabinteely. The trees and the walls are magical. The estates are hardly given a chance to intrude at all. Both roads are beautifully maintained in a manner appropriate to the setting. The Park approach is also appealing. The Park wall and the accompanying footpath guide one safely into the village. The opposite side of the road is more fussy with housing and enterprise but just provides another contrast.

General Impression:

There are areas of this competition that you have mastered. All sections that deal with the presentation of Cabinteely are of a very high standard. You know where you are weakest. Next year's adjudicator will see that the adjudicators of the two previous years sounded a bit tetchy about progress in these sections! Blackmail. One knows from seeing your work that you are a resourceful group, therefore much is expected of you. And remember that the marks will rise too. Good luck.