

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Chapelizod** Ref: **166**  
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **276**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **13/06/2012**  
**30/07/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	50	40	41
Landscaping	50	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Litter Control	50	27	28
Tidiness	30	17	17
Waste Minimisation	20	10	11
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35	35
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>276</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome, Chapelizod to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated.

Your entry is very comprehensive. However, your entry mentions locations that are not on the map due to the small scale of the map. A larger map, even a hand drawn one, would be greatly appreciated by the adjudicator. Only 5 locations are mentioned on the map although your entry form refers to many more. If necessary omit the pictures of projects and just use a number. An additional sheet of paper can be used to show a key to the numbers or it can be put on the back of the map.

Your committee of 20 shows very good support from the community. Well done.

Your links to other bodies are extensive and in most cases seem to be paying dividends. Congratulations to St. Patricks National School on being awarded its first Green Flag. Our best wishes go to St. Laurence's National School in their effort to achieve a Green Flag. Another TidyTowns entrant has 2 schools that are trying for their 6th Green Flag. It has taken them 12 years to get this far.

Your web site is very informative. Your adjudicator thought it could be raided for a bigger map. Alas! Thank you for the copies of Chat and other enclosures.

Your other comments were read with interest.

### **The Built Environment:**

Approaching Chapelizod, on the Chapelizod Road from the city, the first building is the church (Roman

Catholic) which looks well. Walls and railings are newly painted. The old houses for the priests are also well presented. Together they convey that they belong in a more gracious past. A good first impression of Chapelizod.

The bridge is in character with the image of Chapelizod conveyed by the approach. The bridge looks very well and its functionality has been greatly enhanced by the new boardwalk (your entry form has a longer name for it). It is a pleasure to stop and look at the surroundings safe in the knowledge that the constant traffic does not have to be watched first.

The village environmental scheme: As your entry form notes this is a positive feature but it seems to your adjudicator that there is still work to be done.

St Laurence's (Church of Ireland): Another key building in the village. It is well presented. Well done for cleaning up the outside walls and approach lanes.

Protected structures: Your persistence in having protected properties at Anna Livia Bridge put up for sale is commended. Hopefully, they will be sold soon.

Derelict sites are a blight on Chapelizod. Some are in key locations such as overlooking the new Plaza. There were no seats on the Plaza on adjudication day but the prospect of having to sit looking at the 2 derelict buildings does not appeal to this adjudicator.

### **Landscaping:**

Your "How to" initiative is to be commended.

St Laurence's Grove is an eyecatching neighbourhood. Well done to Dublin City Corporation and to the St. Laurence Grove Environmental Group for the great work that they have done. Congratulations to the St. Laurence Grove Environmental Group for winning the 2011 City Neighbourhood award for Dublin.

The St. Laurence Grove is also a regular winner in the Dublin City Council's Tidy Areas competition.

Lucan Road, Glenaulin and Belgrove: The green frontage along Lucan Road and the ample green space in this part of the village is maintained to a very high standard by Chapelizod Tidy Towns. Residents vie for prizes for their gardens in the Chapelizod Festival Garden competition.

This year the TidyTowns team weeded and planted up tubs that had been neglected.

Industrial Estate: Climbers planted to screen wall. Redundant signage removed and wall painted.

New Row: Cobbled arch given a further face life in 2012. New community garden now in use. A rainwater harvesting project being installed to reduce use of portable water.

Half Barrels: Additional planted units deployed around village.

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

Birds and Bees: Chapelizod TidyTowns (CTT) web site has flora and fauna section which lists 59 species of flora. Some Irish names for the plants have been included.

Bat and Bird boxes: due to a number of factors no occupants to date.

River Liffey: Kayaking club had a clean-up in April.

Liffey Valley Park decks for fishing/viewing races being vandalised. Life buoys being stolen.

Ducks on the Millrace.

### **Litter Control:**

Clean-ups during evenings and on Saturdays. Neat Street teams work for 30 minutes in the evening.

Scouting Ireland volunteers and other young volunteers to help with litter picking and fortnightly clean-ups. Having some impact but litter/rubbish still a problem.

Dublin City Council has a designated staff member to clean and empty bins on a regular basis.

At the annual festival prizes are awarded to shops with best presented shop fronts to encourage shops to keep their shop fronts/footpaths clean.

Littering from passing vehicles is a problem but it is being tackled.

Cigarette butts outside pubs a problem. CTT holding talks with pub owners to tackle this problem.

Talks in 2 schools about litter, wildlife and conservation issues.

CTT has a link on its website to Dublin City Council's litter warden so litter offences can be reported online.

Liffey Valley Park: On the south side , just inside the gate nearest to Chapelizod, there were bags of rubbish and litter on adjudication day.

Litter on road and path to edge of village.

Lucan Road: Bag of rubbish at ESB boxes beside bus stop opposite the derelict building.

### **Tidiness:**

The Square: holes remain in the new granite paving despite persistent requests to Dublin City Council.

Additional wires put above ground instead of underground adding to the clutter.

Pedestrian Lights: Finally working again to the delight of pedestrians.

Graffiti: CTT has active anti-litter graffiti team which works closely with Dublin City Council to remove graffiti.

Weeds/grass targeted in gullies/verges each Saturday.

Quality Bus Corridor: Required road widening resulted in new footpaths. Old ones were damaged by traffic. Traffic management improved.

St. Laurence's Road: Traffic congestion relieved during day by installation of single yellow traffic light.

" " " Sign needs cleaning/painting.

" " " Variety Tiles derelict building on key approach road – eyesore.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

St. Patrick's National School has reduced its waste by half through following the Green Flag waste reduction programme. Their waste reduction continues.

The Bandroom – Community hall removed its rubbish bins and requires users either not to bring waste with them or to bring it home for recycling.

CTT last May organised a collection to recycle electrical equipment and batteries. This was promoted at CTT meetings and by leafleting the area.

CTT emails minutes to members, uses text messaging, recycled note paper, promotes its activities through its web site and has completed a carbon footprint survey with An Taisce.

Green waste goes to a green waste facility in Lucan.

Lucan Road: Planters at bus stop need to be refreshed (opposite derelict building).

Flower beds at the base of trees near the square were neglected on adjudication day.

The community garden and the pocket garden in New Row will further enhance an already attractive area.

### **Residential Areas:**

St. Laurence's Grove: very well presented. Lots of planters at entrance and landscaped area at junction with St. Laurence's Road. Nice welcome stone. Well done to the residents and all involved.

Chapelizod Hill Road: Delightful terrace of houses with attractive gardens.

Lucan Road: Posters on railings opposite Chapel Moorings apartments detract from the lovely old houses on an elevated site nearby.

Northcliffe: Landscaped area enhances the apartments and gives a very good first impression of Chapelizod on this approach road.

Maiden Row/New Row: Neat, well presented terraced houses. Lots of flowers – hanging baskets, window boxes, planters. Very attractive.

Well done to all involved.

Other residential areas – Belgrove, Glenaulin, Laurence Brook, Chapelizod Court are well presented.

Already mentioned is Northcliffe apartments. Others, too, look well but time (and parking) did not allow a detailed look at each.

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

Approach roads vary in the first impression they create of Chapelizod. There is not a great deal that CTT can do about it given the location of some derelict buildings.

Quality Bus Corridor: The impact that this has had on roads/footpaths is positive and was worth the disruption, with hindsight. Both roads and footpaths have improved and footpaths are safer, particularly near the Bridge Inn.

The Church of the Nativity of the BVM has been mentioned already in this report. Work done by CTT at this location has further enhanced the approach to Chapelizod.

There are litter/dumping issues with other approaches except Knockmaroon Hill where safety is an issue.

In addition to the points raised in your entry form about the approach on the Chapelizod Hill Road, there are derelict buildings opposite the FAS complex which greatly detract from this approach but, as I have commented above, they are beyond the resources of a Tidy Towns Committee to redress.

### **General Impression:**

Chapelizod Tidy Towns Committee achieved further advancement of your 5 year plan. Well done to all involved.

You faced considerable challenges, got over some but were frustrated with others. That is life on a Tidy Towns Committee. Please remind yourselves that the Tidy Towns is a national movement that is in its 54th year. During that time it saw many recessions, many setbacks but it continued to grow and is now more successful than ever.

Your efforts for this year's competition are noted and appreciated. We wish you success in the future and look forward to receiving your entry in the 2013 Tidy Towns Competition.

Thank you Chapelizod Tidy Towns Committee.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It was many years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting Chapelizod and many changes and developments have taken place in this time! The centre of the village is still very charming and unique and surface treatment to the main street is attractive and appropriate. There are many fine buildings such as the Villager pub and adjacent red brick houses. However, there is a problem with dereliction and abandoned premises in the village. An abandoned shop on the Dublin side looked unfortunate with its dated plastic signage and another abandoned property was noted at the village centre next to the (commendably retained) traditional phone box. The Mullingar House pub looked fresh and well on the Dublin side, as did the Catholic church and St Patrick's National School, although this approach is not as welcoming as it could be-perhaps more work is needed to improve the appearance of this road? The marvellous landscaped area on the far side

of the village, at Northcliffe looked magnificent. Premises to the far side of the bridge did not look as impressive as those on main street. The Bridge Lounge was admired, with its tiled detail, as were the houses at St Laurence's Road opposite, with their tiled fanlight detail above their front doors. It is to be hoped that the houses for sale in this vicinity will be restored to their former glory. An empty site opposite looked unfortunate. The stone cottages on raised grassy gardens were admired on this side of the river, although quite a lot of litter was evident on this road. There was quite a lot of graffiti and litter in the vicinity of the Steeples on this approach to the village, particularly at the underpass. Although the Main Street and vicinity in Chapelizod looked very well, and strongly maintained its character, the area to the far side of the bridge could be improved upon in time, to bring it up to a similar standard.