

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cabinteely** Ref: **1334**
County: **Dublin(DunLaoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **273**
Category: **D** Date(s): **06/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	34	36
The Built Environment	50	35	36
Landscaping	50	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28	29
Litter Control	50	34	35
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	6	9
Tidiness	30	20	20
Residential Areas	40	32	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	400	263	273

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the very well put together application form and the supplementary support material including the map of you designated area for adjudication.

It's been quite a while since this adjudicator has been to the village of Cabinteely and it was a very pleasant experience to come back on such a lovely evening and take time out not alone to adjudicate but appreciate the village.

The increase in the number of volunteers is quite staggering but in the times that we live many people are reverting back to old values such as volunteerism and you have benefited from this.

The Committee of 8 is very active in harnessing the good will of all sections of the community.

It was a very good idea to invite supporters to your celebration night as a means of saying thanks and also to get more people on board for this year.

The level of interaction that you have with the DLRCouncil,local businesses,Gardai,Schools and local residents is very laudable and the results of this type of cooperation has benefited you immensely.

Getting sponsorship to paint the Spanish Mission like Catholic Church is a fair accomplishment.

The adjudicator was impressed with the number of communication options you to convey your message to the public and he also took time out to examine the impressive website.

Your action plan is based on work that can be achieved in the timescale laid out and not on aspirational stuff that is outside your control and that might never come to fruition.

A very good input in this category and one that gets an additional 2 marks.

The Built Environment:

The built environment in Cabinteely is very attractive and is made up of very fine two storey premises some of which have been restored tastefully.

They are complemented by series of single story cottages that are also very attractive and that add to the street scape.

One has to comment on the quality of the public building particularly the garda station situated as it should be in a central part of the village and very well maintained and enhanced by hanging baskets.

The Church, waiting for refurbishment, is of unique design more akin to the mission churches of the coast of California, the grounds are attractive with mature trees and shrub beds.

The post office is housed in one of the terrace of cottages that have an association with the Village since turn of

20th century

The Carnegie Library and grounds were in splendid condition after celebrating its

For a Tidy Towns Committee you have been actively involved in many of the practical painting schemes that are outlined in your work plan.

Not many committees would offer to paint the window sills of the Garda Station or the railings of the Bank of Ireland IT Centre!

The colours on properties were extremely pleasant and easy on the eye and the following premises appealed to the adjudicator Olive Branch, The Horse and Hound a nice and relaxing establishment, Tapas Birches Nous and Cloud Berries Coffee Shop.

The shopping centre with the Tesco Express Store and Coffee Shop was well managed and serves an outlying part of Cabinteely very well.

Doyle's Nurseries on the Brennanstown Road had a wonderful vibrant colour created by a bed of red geraniums.

Landscaping:

Landscape arrangements are a strong point of the village and this may not be totally unexpected as you have expertise and actually nurseries available to you.

Getting donations and sponsorship of shrubs, saplings and annuals plus expert advice is a big plus and this was reflected by the actual quality of the planting and floral arrangements viewed on the day.

One comment that I would like to make is that it has been brought to the notice of adjudicators that planting flowers in this case geraniums at the base of trees is not recommended maybe some one with more expertise in horticulture can make a more informed assessment.

Cabinteely Park which I believe was donated to the community by a well known businessman and philanthropist of his time is a major contributor to the high standard of landscaping. It is such a wonderful amenity to have in your midst and is such of educational value as well.

On adjudication day it was at its very best and the Europe in Bloom garden is a sight to behold as well as the masses of lavender and wildflowers.

The work being undertaken and the actual examples right around the village and the outskirts merit an increase of an added point.

One word of caution do not over indulge in beautification by means of hanging baskets they can be too overpowering.

Actually one business premises that attracts passing trade had its name completely covered by an overhanging hanging basket!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Much work is being done by the committee to create an understanding for the public for the need to preserve and promote the wildlife habitats that exist within your boundary area.

The previously mentioned Cabinteely Park is an education place in itself where families can come appreciate things like the duck pond which breeds, wildflower garden and Europe in Bloom garden for insects and other forms of wildlife.

I'm sure the park is also no stranger to foxes, rabbits possibly hares and squirrels.

The input on wildlife in your website was noted and needs to be updated on an ongoing basis

Lambourne Wood Glade is also another area of rich wildlife habitats.

Organising the Biodiversity Walk Workshop and helping to maintain public walks are very practical works that are part of what this category is about.

The adjudicator did not notice any mention of wildlife projects in conjunction with the schools of the area.

I'm sure the committee and the horticultural personnel don't have to be reminded of section 40 of the wildlife act on the restrictions on hedge cutting from 1st March till 31st August.

Litter Control:

The adjudication took place on a week end day and surprisingly there was very little litter to be seen in the village centre or at the outside areas.

One or two pieces observed in the Shopping Centre at Park Drive /Glen Drive Junction, some more plastic bottles were noted at the locked gates of what must have been an old factory up from the Bank of Ireland IT Centre and on the footpath down Brennanstown Road.

The involvement of schools is a key component of the anti litter programme that you have in place as it goes without saying that a good appreciation of litter control will be carried in adulthood by the students.

Continue with the excellent work being done it has proved to be successful year on year.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This is a category that created quite a lot of problems for many centres under its former heading of waste minimisation.

Now the category has evolved on to sustainable waste and resource management to create an awareness of the need to curtail the actual production of unnecessary waste.

This could mean the reduction in the production of packaging, better use of energy sources or devise ways to reduce food waste.

The role of a Tidy Towns Committee in this capacity is to educate and inform as well as organising workshops of relevance. It also needs to be abreast of new developments under the heading and keeping in close contact with the local environmental officer for this purpose.

What you have done in relation to areas such as emailing the "Guide to minimizing food waste to the Catering

Section" to all restaurants is exactly what this category wants promote.

You have replicated this with other actions such as including a page on your website on sustainable waste management.

An increase of 3 marks is very justified in this instance.

Tidiness:

The village has an orderly look about it but there were a few small negatives to report on.

It might be sensitive to mention the business in the centre of the village that has ride on mowers on display on the footpath but it stands out like a sore thumb in such very well presented surroundings.

A corner underneath the fly over bridge at entrance to village is a little untidy and actually also had some litter strewn at the back of trees, this could be improved by re grassing if that is feasible. The area that once was a factory I think is getting the worse for wear but I am aware that the Committee has made contact with owners to tidy up the frontage, maybe it should be hoarded up.

Good to report that there was no graffiti or "ethnic art" of consequence to be, seen some of your neighbouring villages not as lucky. These lads or lassies seem to have great success in finding places that no one can access easily to carry out their craft!

Residential Areas:

The residential areas in the immediate surround of the village and there are many were very well maintained.

The committee has a support structure second to none for residents associations and this is why the residential areas visited by the adjudicator were of a standard that would be hard to surpass.

Assistance clean ups are not in place in every town or village and indeed the residents of Carrig Glen, Park Estate and Park Drive just to name a few have responded accordingly as their properties and frontages were very presentable many with fine and colourful gardens.

The Village is lucky that it has not been left with the blight of the Celtic tiger – unfinished estates an unlikely occurrence in a sought after area.

The ongoing work of the committee of encouraging and practically supporting residents where possible is paying dividends.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads into the village are appealing, surfaces are good footpaths also good with kerbsides free from residue or weed growth.

The Brennanstown Entrance is narrow in places but it has a good footpath structure and of course the old boundary wall of the Park or what was once a landed estate I would venture to suggest.

Both ends of the Old Bray Road were also very attractive because of its established look with mature trees providing the cover.

Both also had some very fine residences as well that added significantly to each entry point.

The area outside Lewis Motors mentioned in your application was noted during my walk about and hopefully the DLR Council will come up trumps to repair it.

By and large the standard was good and very acceptable.

General Impression:

The adjudicator had not been in Cabinteely for some while and the visit was very pleasant and relaxing on what was a very fine summer's evening.

Your committee is getting into more projects of relevance year on year and this is reflected in the way the village looks so well.

Keep up the communication work because that is more than half any battle and you have succeeded admirably in this respect. You are wished well for the future