

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cabinteely** Ref: **1334**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **299**
Category: **D** Date(s): **29/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36
TOTAL MARK	450	299

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Your adjudicator welcomes Cabinteely to the 2014 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. Your participation for the seventh year is important to the national Tidy Towns movement which is over 50 years old. The concisely completed entry form, Three Year Plan, miscellaneous information and map were extremely helpful during adjudication. On the beautiful Sunday afternoon of our visit the village was buzzing with open eateries (with tempting smells adding to the atmosphere) and the vitality of the Park! Consequently we were very conscious that Cabinteely has a strong sense of place and identity, sometimes difficult to achieve in a suburban context. The streamlining of your committee to separate management and operational functions has clearly been effective as commendably the overall impression was one of consistency – the goal to be strived for as you make progress through the ranks of the Competition. The significant increase in the level of interest in volunteering by residents as well as support from the businesses, Church, schools, Gardai, County Council, etc is a testament to the organisational skills of the Committee. Please note that it is not possible within the scope of this Report to make reference to all the work you have undertaken, rather to cite examples and offer constructive criticism where appropriate.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The built environment and streetscape in general has improved almost beyond recognition in the past few years. Most items of street furniture were well presented but one prominent post box in the village centre was in need of repainting. The contemporary four storey building was admired – especially the frontage of Urbun with its minimal signage. While allowing Doyle's Field to remain a wildlife paradise is an option there is also great scope to develop it to further strengthen the built heart of the village. The Garda Station with its window boxes and original sash windows is a fine building but will need repainting for next year (and weeding of gutters). The simple, direct frontage of Trentuno was liked and again the retention of sash windows here is commended. Perhaps consideration might be given to painting those buildings with drab plaster but which are otherwise neatly kept. Indeed most street buildings were well painted in muted tones while a few needed freshening up. The traditional garage building is important to the heritage of the village and consequently should be regularly painted; the long side and roof also needed attention. The site to the north of the garage has been cleverly disguised. The Garden Shop contributes greatly to the village but ironically ragwort was growing on the roof. Two premises had their frontage obscured by roller shutters – if at all possible these should be behind the window display. The window displays and their absence of superfluous advertising of the well renowned Horse and Hound were favourably noted. Once again we were drawn to the retention of sash windows of the elegant building accommodating Sam's Barbers, Tapas Bar and Watercress, and the houses towards the Church. The sign fascia of the Post Office needed replacement. The Olive Branch would benefit from less advertising which tends to result in visual clutter. Café du Journal was admired. The Park Shopping Centre including its car park was neatly presented but the adjacent undeveloped land

detracted a little. Hopefully soon the old laundry site might be redeveloped. Although somewhat out of the village the Community School with its mature trees makes a great impact. St Brigid's Schools also looked well – interestingly they are also included in the entry received from Foxrock ! The picturesque library was again enjoyed. Commended are those who so carefully present the Church with its landscaping to such an exemplary high standard. Cabinteely House including the grain store and courtyard spaces is a wonderful asset but the gate lodges should be restored, particularly that at the village entrance.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The village is well festooned with flowers but as noted last year avoid the temptation to overdecorate buildings in the centre and consequently obscure signs of premises. Permanent planting of trees in particular and the occasional group of well placed containers is preferred. Approaching from the N11 the planting along by the stone village name sign creates an impressive entrance to Cabinteely. To be commended are all the residents who, in their private gardens and collectively in open spaces, contribute to the overall standard of landscaping throughout. The garden beside the Church with the St Brigid's cross formed in box is a surprisingly tranquil place considering it is so close to large volumes of passing traffic. The composition of waving grasses at the end of the car park is beautiful. At the other end of the scale the expansive long vistas of Cabinteely Park, thronged with happy people of all ages, with manicured planting, wild planting, mature trees, playground, sculptural interventions, rolling grass, and the duck pond and Shanganagh River running through looked truly exceptional.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Cabinteely has a diverse range of wildlife habitats throughout but especially in the Park – water, waterside, grassland, wildflowers, trees, undergrowth, etc. The orchard in the wildflower meadow with the mown grass path was a joy to walk through. Protecting the wildlife areas and natural habitats is quite a challenge in light of so many people using the same areas for leisure and recreational pursuits. The Dawn Chorus on 18 May must have been a wonderful experience ! Lambourne Wood Glade has a beautiful quality – no doubt it is full of bluebells in springtime. It was encouraging to read that you have strict observance of no hedge cutting or tree felling during the bird nesting season. The

30 metre long planter with native Irish plants and flowers is an interesting idea. Participation in the clean up of the Loughlinstown Wood Nature Reserve outside your area is commended - indeed it is further evidence of the community spirit which abounds in the village. You must be excited about the planned biodiversity plan, butterfly garden and the habitat survey.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

You are making considerable headway under this heading. The list of completed projects this year is overwhelming. We particularly liked the one where a sign destined for the dump found a new use. Promoting the efficient use of resources in the community through the actions of the committee and others affiliated is truly leading by example. It is significant that use of the electric car charging point has increased. It would be interesting to know if the installation of bike racks actually does translate to cars being left at home. Urbun are to be congratulated for signing up to Greenbusiness.ie, introducing the biodegradable cup and assisting with the scheme to reuse coffee grindings. The website is a most effective means to develop awareness and keep everyone up to date with future events and accounts of past ones. The images of the Upcycle Fashion Workshop demonstrate the imaginative possibilities and fun to be had from recycling and reusing. The work of school children is always especially appreciated as it gives hope to continuance of Sustainable Waste and Resource Management concepts to future generations. What better way to learn than to make bread and jam harvested from the garden of St Brigid's Girls School !

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

In summary, much of Cabinteely could be described as tidy, so the challenge going forward is to sustain the high level of vigilance and progressively tackle the few remaining problem areas. The pavements were commendably clean and only in isolated locations were kerbside weeds an issue. A prominent gateway on Brennanstown Road was disappointingly weedy, also parts of Cabinteely House car park. Litter control was excellent in the village centre but a few papers were noted in some residential areas. It would be interesting to know if the incidence of dropping litter is lessening since you have extended and intensified litter picking. Overhead wirescape did detract somewhat. Despite planting on Old Clonkeen Road this road needs particular attention. The old laundry site has already been mentioned but railings all along by the IT Centre should be painted as a matter of urgency. The schools' poster competition was a good idea.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

We were extremely impressed by the standard of so many residential areas, ranging from those well established to the more recent. Furthermore, looking closely at the individual properties we appreciated the level of care and attention on the part of their owners. On adjudication day many a garden was being tended. Mature trees with fresh foliage and well clipped hedges together with prolific colourful flowers and shrubs created a great impression. The consistent exceptional standard of landscaping throughout Brennanstown was especially admired. Indeed grassed areas throughout the village were for the most part beautifully mown with good attention to detail around trees, etc. Other areas favourably noted include Carraig Glen with its consistent boundary treatment of brick walls softened by fresh tree and hedge foliage, Cabinteely Close with its consistent hedges, Holmwood and Lambourne Wood well presented within its natural setting and the terraced cottages along from the library. The Park estate is well developed and the linear open space at the bottom is an important element. On the other hand some boundary

walls would have benefitted from repainting. At Sycamore Grove litter and tall weeds along the railings looked poor and at least one garden of the brick houses on Old Clonkeen Road appeared to be neglected.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach roads were generally fine but clear demarcation of the village limits would be helpful. The Johnstown Road approach with expansive grass areas, planting and stone village sign looked particularly well. The semi rural ambience of Brennanstown Road, contained between high walls, was enjoyed and the splash of colour at Doyle's Nursery and Garden Centre made a dramatic statement. Lehaunstown Road is a true rural road but was becoming quite overgrown at the end of June. Despite the demise of the railings on Old Bray Road – North the clean roadsides, neat walls and mature trees created a beautiful ambience on the approach to the village centre. Old Clonkeen Road as already referred to needs further work. Strimming was in progress along Old Bray Road – South which was encouraging as ragwort was flowering profusely at the roadside near the turning area - it is hard to imagine that this used to be the main road to Dublin ! Work along the walkway from Shrewsbury House to the N11 was appreciated but the top end was weedy. The fresh street surfacing created a good impression.

Congratulations to Cabinteely on a stunning performance this year!