

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SANDYCOVE-GLASTHULE**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	30	--
Landscaping	40	22	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	26	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	19	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	178	--

Glasthule/Sandycove, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome back to the Tidy Towns Competition, it is good to see you have a good size committee and we hope that you can retain this initial commitment and enthusiasm. Thank you for your completed entry form, it would be helpful for next year's competition to outline in a little more detail any developments that you carry out and any proposals you aim to focus on in the future. In this regard, the development of a 3 – 5 year plan for the Glasthule/Sandycove area is strongly recommended as this will serve to focus your committee on proposed works and also involve the community in the spirit of the Tidy Towns initiative. Try to liaise and co-operate with other statutory bodies and local organisations, as well as the County Council, in your efforts as this will make your task easier.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town of Sandycove/Glasthule was quite delightful to visit with pleasant and colourful shopfronts to look at and a general village-like feel to it. It is important to retain this ambience in the future. Mitchell's Wine Shop stood out, as did the Bistro Vino, Peter Dunne Butchers and Fitzgerald's Pub. Tara Hall Bed & Breakfast looked well, although the sign outside was starting to fall down, and other shops along the Sandycove Road had obviously made a real effort to brighten their premises with plenty of flower baskets and planters out front. It was nice to see plenty of bins outside the Spar itself which obviously helps to prevent littering. Bi-lingual street signs were to be seen throughout the area and the wheelchair friendly kerbsides and adjusted traffic light poles are welcome. It would be nice to see something done with the Forum Cinema as it looks rather neglected at present and the DART station has made some efforts to improve the look of its exterior but the woodwork needs to be repainted to make a real difference.

LANDSCAPING

The proposed landscaping along the seafront at Newtownsmith will be lovely when completed and will benefit everyone. The garden of the dental surgery looked particularly well on Sandycove Road and the paved area opposite Glenn Terrace with its seats and trees was very attractive. The grassy park area in front of Eden Park, off the Summerhill Road, is an area which holds great potential for some landscaping and development. With the introduction of some benches and flowers this park could be enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Some beautiful wildflowers were evident along by the rocks,

just past the Forty Foot bathing area, and the park by Marine Parade is lovely facility. Given your town's location by the seafront further enhancement of natural wildlife should be encouraged. The development of an environmental plan should be considered for the future as part of your overall development plan. Walkways like the Slí na Sláinte could be developed, taking into account the coastal location and perhaps even the literary connections of the area.

LITTER CONTROL

Your awareness and attempts to prevent the gathering of litter along the main street were noted and seem to have successfully paid off as very little rubbish was to be seen on Sandycove and Glasthule Roads. Vigilant attention should also be given to side streets and to the area beside the recycling facilities at the DART station. The base of the wall along the seafront at Marine Parade seems to attract litter so do not let this become a problem. The many litterbins placed all along the beach and at the Forty Foot bathing area are a simple but effective method of preventing people dumping and casually throwing waste around. By making it easier for people to tidy up and keep their environment clean, it will encourage the youth to do the same.

TIDINESS

In general, the pathways and kerbs around the area were free of weeds, but pay heed to side roads such as Sandycove Avenue East and Ballyglen Avenue where kerbsides needed attention. Where building works were going on in houses around the area, it was good to see that the mess and rubbish was kept to a minimum. The recycling facilities beside the DART station are a great facility to have but make sure that they are kept neat and free of litter as otherwise people will be deterred from using them.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are some lovely houses to be seen around the Sandycove/Glasthule area and overall, they were presented very well. The houses the seafront at Marine Parade were well maintained and the garden of the lovely brick house on the corner of Wilmont Avenue looked particularly well cared for with an abundance of flowers. The blocks of apartments behind Quinn's Funeral Home were attractive and bright, an example of how to make the best of multiple structures such as these. A couple of the houses along Eden Park were in need of repainting and some attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Kerbsides on the approach roads into Sandycove/Glasthule were generally free of weeds and litter although side streets needed attention in this regard. However, the car park beside the DART is clearly visible from the main road, as too is the rubbish that gathers there and the general

neglected look of the place. This area needs attention as the approach roads into the town create the first impression of the place you are about to visit.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The reforming of the Tidy Towns Committee in April of this year is a very positive step and I am confident that your committee will look at the issues that need to be addressed. I note that you have plan to organise a clean up every two weeks – try to get as many of the local businesses, residents and schoolchildren as possible involved in these efforts. Well done to date and good luck with your future plans.