

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shankill** Ref: **1101**
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **263**
Category: **F** Date(s): **09/07/2007**
06/08/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	263

Overall Development Approach:

Shankill is welcome as a new entrant into the National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your comprehensive report which included support material that was helpful in the adjudication process.

The Built Environment:

Shop fronts in the town centre are very attractive and those that were admired include Mickey Byrnes pub, Champs Shop, and Brady's. Ecclesiastical buildings are presented to the highest standard and the Crinken Church of Ireland and grounds was especially admired. Some commercial/community buildings on Quinns Road could be improved. The canopy over the shops in the shopping centre looks a little tacky and is in a poor state of repair. A short term solution might be to feature container plants on top, but ultimately it should be redesigned. The banner should be removed from the Credit Union premises as it has become loose and is difficult to read and adds nothing to the presentation of this fine building. Encourage shop owners to feature internal lighting at night with see-through shutters, if shutters are thought to be necessary as this will enhance the streetscape and is good for business.

Landscaping:

Green open spaces in the environs of the DART station enjoyed good maintenance on the day of adjudication and the stand of semi mature trees on the road leading to the DART station is excellent, don't forget to replace the broken tree. Corbawn Lane enjoys beautiful landscaping and the landscaped perimeter of the shopping centre was admired also. There were many mature trees throughout Shankill which look quite stately and recently planted trees appear to be establishing themselves well. Flower displays, especially in containers on

the footpath in the town centre were colourful and profuse. Landscaping to the small roundabout on the Quinns Road junction was admired as was the hedgerow boundary to the Roman Catholic Church.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Playing fields are enjoying excellent maintenance both within and to their roadside edge, well done. The Shankill Tennis and Bowling Club is especially good in this regard.

We look forward to the installation of interpretive panels for your wildlife and other recreational amenities together with finger post signage, not forgetting to include one for the entrance to Shagannagh Park and Castle at the entrance from St Anns Park residential development. The cemetery was neatly presented in respect of its green areas, mature trees, planters and stone boundary wall. The adventure sports playground in the park is a welcome development. The beach was particularly clean, well done.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent throughout with just a few plastic bottles noted in Shagannagh Gardens together with some in the shopping centre. Well done on the major clean up earlier this year of Corbawn Lane and thank you for the photographs.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point at the DART station is well positioned and being nicely maintained some graffiti, however, was noted on the nearby letterbox. The recycling point in the shopping centre was neatly presented. Congratulations to the students of the national schools which have been awarded Green Flag status and we wish those working towards this every success. It is good to note that you will be approaching business interests regarding their waste recycling. We wish you very success with the proposed pilot domestic composting scheme and would be especially interested to hear more of the outcome.

Tidiness:

Well done on the anti-graffiti program which is already underway and the useful before and after photographs included in your submission. We acknowledge the weed elimination program being run in conjunction with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and are happy to note that excessive weed growth was not a problem during adjudication although some was in evidence along the curb at the DART station. Dumped bags were sighted behind O'Connell's pub in the shopping centre. Graffiti was noted on the Lower Road.

Residential Areas:

Grassed roadside areas to boundary walls along Corbawn Avenue are a most attractive feature as is the linear green verge with the newly planted saplings and semi mature trees. Neatly maintained grassed verges backed by mature trees with some young trees also are a feature of Queens Road. The Olcovar townhouse and apartment development is a most attractive addition to residential development in Shankill and has been considered for the architectural award. We would like to wish the new resident associations every good luck for the future and forward a big thank you to all that participated in major clean ups for this year particularly those who re-landscaped in addition to clean ups.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road to the beach was quite well presented and the water pump at the access point here had been nicely refurbished. Nameplates are a very attractive feature of Shankill and give good definition to its boundaries. Road and footpath surfaces are quite good and street furniture in general looks well, the lampstandards in the town centre are a handsome feature which accompanied by the lack of overhead service cables enhances the streetscape. The stone stile to the playing fields on Quinns Road is a nice touch. Well done also on your surfaced cycling lanes. The name stone at the southern entrance together with new planting is an excellent introduction to Shankill.

General Impression:

Shankill is a beautiful town with fine amenities and much to offer the community.

Second Round Adjudication:

Shankill has been absent from the Tidy Towns Competition since 2001 and it is good to see that you are back in force and are performing to a very high standard. Your various submissions were useful and the awareness march certainly had a significant impact. Residential area are maintained to a high standard throughout and in

particular Shrewsbury Road, Castle Farm, Olcovar and Corbawn were noted. Green areas were well trimmed and mature trees at various locations were admired. As mentioned by the first adjudicator the signage at the Shopping Centre is still poor and hopefully the pending purscase of the site will remedy this eyesore. Unfortunately there was some illegal dumping at the entrance to Shanganagh Park at lower Quinn Road on the day of adjudication. Otherwise litter control was good with only an odd bottle or piece of paper spotted. Brady's of Shankill is a most impressive premises and its presentation certainly sets a very high standard - it is a pity that smokers chose to stub out butts in the landscaped area. The Garda Station was admired for it fresh appearance and sash windows. Roads and paths throughout Shankill are well surfaced and the colourful mosaics were greatly admired. Your ongoing efforts to combat graffiti is commended. The area around Choices Adult Learning Centre looked a little shabby. Landscaped areas looked well and certainly brighten the busy roundabouts. Overall Shankill has been a pleasure to visit and has performed very well in the Tidy Towns Competition congratulations to all involved!