

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rush** Ref: **138**  
County: **Dublin(Fingal)** Mark: **234**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **04/07/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	50	31	33
Landscaping	50	30	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20	20
Litter Control	50	27	27
Tidiness	30	15	15
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	24	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	30
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>234</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Rush TidyTowns are welcome to the 2012 competition. Thank you for your entry form and very helpful map and supporting documentation. Your committee of 7 and volunteers are engaging well with the local authority, businesses and the sponsors of hanging baskets. It is good to note that you are also engaging with the Schools in litter clean ups. Your commitment shows when you visit the town. You don't seem to have a plan for the area in place. Perhaps this is something a member of your group would put together including the views of the community. You should also take into account other plans for the area such as the local area plan. When a plan is provided you can give a clear picture of what you want to achieve year by year. If you do not have a member of the group who can do this, perhaps a professional outside your group could be engaged. Funding is available from Leader for this project.

### The Built Environment:

There were many fine buildings making up the attractive streetscape of Rush. St Maurs Cathedral Church, a modern building with nicely planted grotto. The old Church which is a fine stone building is now the library. The Millbank Theatre on the corner looked very well. Through the town some fine stone buildings such as Rush Pharmacy were noted. Moving on The Thatch and Dalmac with its window boxes and planters was very impressive. St Josephs Secondary School and Rush Boys National School all added to the character of the town. The creation of youth café at Millbank Green was also noted. The addition of the modern Tesco building and Plaza areas all blend into the streetscape.

### Landscaping:

From your entry it is noted that you get sponsorship for the hanging basket poles that adorns the street. It is indeed very encouraging to get Businesses and residents involved. The planted boat feature of lavender on

Whitestown Road was admired. The new trees in planters on Main Street were also admired, but why in planters and not in the ground, maybe there is a reason. The landscaping at Tesco looked superb and the landscaping around the Church of Roses looked great. The shrub bed however in this area was in need of some attention. Some dead shrubs need to be removed. The welcome to Rush sign on the old road was a nice feature. Perhaps this type of feature could be placed on all approach roads into the town.

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

The town has a lovely setting of natural habitat for Wildlife with its vast stretch of seashore. It is good to see you are keeping the beach clean with the Adopt a Beach programme. Kenure Woods is also a lovely amenity for walkers and should be further developed. Your plan for Rogerstown Estuary seems a big project that will take some work but will be welcomed when complete. Try to engage with Bird Watch Ireland or you may have an expert in this field on your committee to complete a survey on wildlife in your town and surrounds and have it documented for the community to see. There are some very interesting bird species around the coast.

### **Litter Control:**

Great work is being done in this category. From Adopt a Beach to National Spring Clean Day. Adopting a section of beach is a good way of keeping the area clear of litter with such a long coastline. It is evident that you have a good plan in place to deal with litter such as organised clean up days and you have also identified litter black spots which you have taken care of.

### **Tidiness:**

Rush has some untidy areas but they are not difficult to address. Weed growth at kerbs and pavements was noted. This problem can be addressed with the local authority by spraying, hopefully the local authority stills completes this task. There was some clutter on some footpaths also. A lot of clutter was spotted outside one shop. Traffic flowed well and parking was not a problem.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

In this category entrants are encouraged to move beyond just collecting litter to taking steps to actually reduce the production of waste in the community. A recommendation is to carry out a waste audit. The race against waste booklet from The Tidy Towns unit has some helpful guidelines on carrying out such an audit. Also segregate the waste collected during clean ups. Compost leaves and grass and reuse the compost in landscaping. Run a workshop on waste minimisation together with the local authority. Engage with the Green Schools programme and encourage the Green Homes programme. This category causes confusion for some entrants but it is about the reduction of the amount of waste that is produced in the community.

### **Residential Areas:**

There was a nice mix of dwellings in Rush from traditional houses, in particular the thatched house on the old Rush Road to the more modern ones of today. There were some fine stone buildings along the streetscape all adding their own character to the town. The Estates, Golden Ridge was well maintained and landscaped. It is noted that goods residents associations prevail in these estates. Tayleors already a winner looked superb. Other Estates, Seafield, Haystown are all well maintained. The Estate competition is a great initiative for the residents association and encourages each area to maintain the estate. Well done on this as time will show the real effect on the town.

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

The roads approaching the town were generally good. This is an important category as well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares about how others see them. The old road 'welcome' stone was very attractive. There are many side roads that take you to the seashore requiring some attention to boundary walls. Most of the grass verges were neat. There are also some uneven surfaces. Continue working with the local authority addressing some of these issues. In this category entrants are reminded that cutting hedges during the nesting season during the 01st March and 31st August is not permitted as per Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976.

### **General Impression:**

Rush is a lovely welcoming village to visit and adjudicate. There are many fine aspects to this area such as the lovely location with its proximity to the sea, some very fine buildings and good landscaping. Well done on your work in all categories for this year's competition and do continue with the hard but worthwhile work. The adjudicator wishes you every success in this year's competition. Keep up the good work for future years.

