

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyfermot** Ref: **156**  
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **247**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **05/07/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	50	31	32
Landscaping	50	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28	28
Litter Control	50	25	25
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	13	13
Tidiness	30	15	14
Residential Areas	40	26	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>247</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Ballyfermot Environment Group is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2013. Your committee of 20 comprising local volunteers, business community and local authority is a healthy mix. You are commended for the frequency of meeting which increase during the summer months. The adjudicator noted at Grange Cross the new meeting point banner. It is great to see that the local branch of Supervalu and local businesses on the financial side is supporting you. Please consider establishing a Facebook presence as this is a good way of engaging with the youth of Ballyfermot and ensures that your activities can be accessed 24 – 7. Well done on your interaction with local schools. Those involved in the Green Flag Programme are commended – please provide more information on the schools involved and how many flags they have achieved in next years submission. You mention that there is a 2012 – 2016 strategy – please share this with us as additional points are available. Ideally, you should update this plan annually as initiatives change or additional funding becomes available. You are commended for your approach on concentrating on the main shopping strip, as there is heavy traffic and footfall here. When this area is maintained to a high standard as a matter of course then begin including a wider geographic area. It is great to note that the Tidy Towns is focussed on the social side as well as improving the streets appearance.

### The Built Environment:

The Assumption Church in a prominent position is commended for its tidy appearance. The Green Flags were flying at a neatly presented St. Raphaels School. St. Johns de la Salle, Ballyfermot Civic Centre, B.C.F.E., and the Library look well. The cream paintwork on the second story of Doc Morris, Xtravision and Kavanaghs improve the appearance of this area. The artificial hedge was noted. The conscientious staff of More 4 Less were washing the windows as the adjudicator passed. Grange Cross is pristine in its presentation in particular Fowlers Bar and Molloy's were noted.

### Landscaping:

There is good use of trees in central Ballyfermot – this has the dual impact of softening the streetscape and providing a habitat for insects and birds. The line of trees at St. Johns de la Salle were a welcome feature. Mature trees and well maintained lawns enhanced the Library. Tiered planters in purple and cerise had elevated impact. The roundabout too was impressive. Permanent planting was admired at the shops adjacent to Iceland, however on closer inspection nettles and thistles were thriving and these should be removed and managed.

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

Thank for the information on Swifts in the City it was a most interesting read. Good luck with your endeavours to collaborate with Chapelizod over the coming year. The eight feeders at the Civic Centre are clearly a great asset to the bird and human community of Ballyfermot. Well done on identifying the various breeds attracted. You are commended for extending this to nest boxes. As mentioned by last year adjudicator please ensure that you are equipped to clean out the boxes year on year.

### **Litter Control:**

The litter control programme in Ballyfermot is comprehensive with weekly picks and monthly events with the schools. It is refreshing to note that neighbourhoods are encouraged to participate in DCC's City Neighbourhood Competition. Which areas have entered thus far? A small scattering of litter was noted on Cole Park Road. A large outbreak was present between the bus stop and Quinns Solicitors. Litter was strewn throughout the Tesco Car Park. Please focus on the latter two areas, as these appear to be real litter black spots.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

This section of the competition has changed this year from the former 'Waste Minimisation'. Please refer to the information provided with your application pack for further guidance. It is good to see that you already have a strong relationship with the Dublin City Council's Environmental Officer. One way to increase points in this section of the competition is to organise a series of workshops for the residents and business owners to educate them on a particular aspect of Resource Management. Well done on your white goods collections.

### **Tidiness:**

A number of new bus stops were clean in appearance and enhanced the streetscape of Ballyfermot. Unfortunately an older bus stop remains at the shops in a central location; it would be great if this were updated. Signage and lamp standards in the Main Street was in a good state of repair and spotlessly clean. A significant amount of weeds were noted in the cobble locking on the approach to the Library. Close by the car park at Tesco too was quite weedy. Fly posting on the vacant property adjacent to Londis detracts from the area. Well done on your programme to remove gum from the shopping area. Tree grids are in a good state of repair and look well. A number of portable advertising were present along the shops; this should be discouraged. Well maintained black metal seats, bollards and railings were noted. Well done on your progress so far in relation to graffiti, however a number of outbreaks were noted by the adjudicator. The Bring Bank looked well at the Tesco car park.

### **Residential Areas:**

Congratulations to the residents of Ballyfermot Parade as here properties are well maintained and numerous attractive gardens were noted. Paths here were weed free. The garden of #194 at Grange Cross was admired for the multi-coloured display of blooms. Ballyfermot Road and Cole Park Road looked well. Given the wide geographic area of Ballyfermot the following general advice is offered; ensure that boundary walls and capstones are in a good state of repair and are clean or painted as appropriate; ensure that driveways are weed free and finally ensure that chimneys are painted where appropriate. We look forward to the extension of the adjudication areas in the coming years.

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

The Main Street is very busy with pedestrians and traffic alike. The road surface here is smooth and clean in appearance with clear markings. Kylemore Road too is maintained to a similar standard.

### **General Impression:**

Ballyfermot is a vibrant urban village with a thriving Main Street. Your methodical and sensible approach to concentrate on the central area is commended. What you do you do well and this is important. You will, no doubt, continue to improve year on year and I look forward to another visit in the years to come. Keep up the good work.