

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymun** Ref: **854**
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **262**
Category: **G** Date(s): **11/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	50	33	33
Landscaping	50	33	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	32	33
Litter Control	50	26	28
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	17	17
Tidiness	30	12	12
Residential Areas	40	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27	27
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	400	257	262

Overall Development Approach:

Ballymun is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2013. Thank you for your comprehensive submission, which included a completed application form, clear map, images and supporting information. It would be helpful if you take 'before' and 'after' pictures of projects so that the adjudicator can appreciate progress in full. It is also advisable that you develop a 3-year plan, to be updated annually, in order to optimise points in this section. Congratulations on your second AGM – you are a fledgling committee in Tidy Town terms! It is encouraging to see a healthy mix of residents, businesses, agencies and youth. You should aim to meet monthly and increase during the busier summer period relative to project requirements – sometimes sub-committees are formed to manage larger projects. Well done on the launch of the Local Awards Summer Festival this will assist in awareness. You are commended for the reinvestment of winnings and grants into carefully selected activities and training. It is great to see that you are using social media as a means to communicate, as this is most effective in reaching younger generations and reduces paper usage. It is encouraging to note the Tidy Towns is assisting in the development of relationships – we see this across the country – for some it is a great social outlet. Well done for reaching out to Ballyfermot Tidy Towns on the advice of last years adjudicator this will enable shared experiences and ideas. Finally, you have the most impressive array of activities throughout the year this will help sustain interest and community spirit.

The Built Environment:

Ballymun is undergoing a major regeneration programme due for completion in December 2014. Like every other town in Ireland the recession is taking its toll on publicly funded programmes and you've expressed disappointment at the decision to put off the Metro North and the Shopping Centre. It is important to focus on the positives, which include the wonderful Axis area. The years on campaigning for village signs were worth the wait they are not only useful indicators but add character to the area. The Ballymun Active Disability Information Group mural was admired – it might be worth contacting the Temple Bar Company to discuss how they approach solving anti-social graffiti with Civic Art. You are embracing public art in Ballymun. Misneach is most impressive. Business premises admired included Supervalu, Health Care Facility Garda Station and Nans Centra – all were clean and tidy in presentation. The Tidy Towns banners looked well and are promoting the concept to locals and road users alike. Scoil an tSeachar Laoch will be insitruemantal in the promotion of the Irish language and their motto 'Gaeilge Beo, Gaelige go deo'.

Landscaping:

The central area of the Axis is a true focal point for Ballymun and was admired for neatly trimmed grass and well maintained public seating. The use of trees and meadows is commended along Main Street. It is encouraging to note the substantial planting of daffodil bulbs at the Muck & Magic Community Garden. Please consider permanent planting where possible in the village as these will provide year round interest and less management. A multitude of seasonal displays was noted throughout the village adding welcomed colour on a sunny July morning. Pretty planting along the entrance to Gateway Avenue looked great with lemon roses in bloom. Further along on the Gateway Court approach floral planting was a nice addition at the base of the trees. The hard landscaping at MABS and the Garda Station is clean and functional. Maturing trees were admired with associated plaques. A container outside Your Reach was a little neglected and close by a planter at the base of a tree was in a similar condition. Perhaps these could be restored and planted for next year's competition? In general village green areas are good and trees enhance the streetscape.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on your achievements here to date. You are presently in year 5 of the 5 Year Biodiversity Plan. Will a new one be drafted for the next 5 years? If yes, please ensure it is submitted with next year's application. The Community Garden is a phenomenal success and all involved are commended on their planting and numerous educational talks. It is great to see that you are using the National Botanical Gardens as a resource. The meadows are encouraging butterflies to flourish. The Ballymun Framed calendar is a good way to literally get into every home!

Litter Control:

Litter control is good in Ballymun. Well done on your schedule of 'Clean ups in the Mun' and clearly laid out work plan. Small amounts of litter were noted at bus stops but there were no large-scale outbreaks. I am glad to see that you are focussing on the Main Street area before tackling the wider district.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This section of the competition has changed this year with the emphasis moving away from just 'Waste Minimisation'. Please refer to the handbook for further guidance. You mention that there is a Ballymun Waste Management Strategy – please ensure to include a copy of this with next years submission. Well done on the numerous workshops which cover everything from fashion to paint. Clearly GAP is an intrinsic part of your endeavours and their work has been noted. Congratulations to Holy Spirit GNS on being their Green Flag achievements I am sure they are an inspiration to the other six schools in the area.

Tidiness:

You are well aware of the major issues in the village pertaining to hoardings, demolition and vacant sites so I will refrain from preaching! You are actively monitoring progress and lobbying where needs be. Your tenacity is commended. There are no issues in relation to overhead wires and street signage is clean. Please monitor these to ensure they remain dirt and algae free.

Residential Areas:

The apartments at Gateway View were admired with a pretty hanging basket enhancing #30. Properties on Shanliss Road look well and are uniform in their presentation. Bachelors Park West looks marvellous with beautiful floral displays at a number of properties.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Main Street area is pristine with smooth road surface and fresh markings. Further afield work is incomplete due to the ongoing regeneration programme. We look forward to progress in this section in the years to come.

General Impression:

The change in the last number of years in Ballymun is phenomenal. Your methodical approach to planning work activities and inclusive approach will ensure you will be climbing in this competition year on year. Well done so far – there is a lot to be proud of.