

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Chapelizod** Ref: **166**
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **280**
Category: **C** Date(s): **11/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	42	44
The Built Environment	50	41	41
Landscaping	50	34	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Litter Control	50	28	28
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	11	11
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35	36
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	400	276	280

Overall Development Approach:

Chapelizod 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 other supporting information. It is great to see that there are 22 active members on your committee. Meetings increase in frequency as the summer draws near and this enables you to optimise community support at this time. You harness support from Dublin City Council, Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Partnership, Supervalu Palmerstown and Chapelizod Old Village Association to name but a few. You are commended for the various means of communication utilised to keep locals abreast of initiatives. Direct engagement with the schools too is recognised, as is the importance of CHAT. Well done on your mentoring of less organised Tidy Towns committees in the Greater Dublin Area. Sharing experiences is a great way to expand knowledge. It is encouraging too that there is a social aspect to involvement in the Tidy Towns thanks to your holistic inclusive approach.

The Built Environment:

Your attempts to counter the impact of dereliction in the village are well documented and your tenacity noted. Keep up the good work! Well done on retaining the P&T phone box they are few and far between nowadays - it looks well. The Village Square is a wonderful amenity and is slick in its presentation. You are commended for the careful consideration of additional furniture as it may encourage anti-social behaviour. The new village signs are an attractive asset and as you identified have an important role in defining the village boundaries. The Villager looks marvellous with seasonal blooms brightening its red-bricked façade. Chapelizod Pharmacy was admired for its co-ordinated planted and hanging baskets. The modern development housing Mr.Wu's was noted for its sympathetic use of materials of red brick and granite plinths in keeping with the Bridge Inn. The School and grounds were neat and tidy in presentation.

Landscaping:

A pretty flower is most welcoming on the Lucan approach and this enhances the village sign. The use of trees throughout the village is not only easy on the eye and a home for bird life but also helps to restrict noise pollution. The green area and rockery the base of the Northcliffe Apartments is wonderful. The Bridge is enhanced greatly by a series of planters. Attractive planters brightened up the Square on a sunny day. Well done on the continuation of the 'How to..' programme.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Chapelizod is in the enviable position of being adjacent to the Phoenix Park and in a river valley enabling wildlife to flourish even in this urban setting. It is great to see that CTT have formed a Biodiversity Sub Group. In order to optimise points in this section a Biodiversity Plan is required. Much of the information is to hand presently and we eagerly await your progress in the years to come. Oh and a wee bird feeder was noted at the end of the Island Green - a nice touch.

Litter Control:

Well it is the first time I have experienced the 'Neat Street Team' concept and I like it a lot! A key part of the success of CTT is teamwork; never underestimate the power of this camaraderie. The volume of passing traffic in this urban village will always add to your woes in relation to litter. In saying this you are commended yet again for your structured approach. The inclusion of school children is an important part of the ongoing community education in this regard. Litter control was good on the day of adjudication with only one significant outbreak noted at the base of the steps at the Square.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This section of the competition has changed slightly this year and you are encouraged to refer to the handbook for guidance. Clearly you have a firm handle on the basics already, with established projects including; WEEE, promotion of best practice and allotments.

Tidiness:

Traffic is a major issue and calming of some sort is urgently needed. It is a safety and an environmental issue. Well done on your lobbying to date. Graffiti is an issue in most urban areas and Chapelizod is no different. Weed control is not a problem but please minimize the use of chemicals - sometimes elbow grease will deliver the same result! One general area for concern is the cleanliness of road signs – please ensure that dirt and algae is removed, usually caused by passing traffic or adjacent trees.

Residential Areas:

St. Laurence Grove continues to excel in its presentation and initiatives. Congratulations on your successes to date. Other residential areas visited included Glenaulin, Liffey Terrace and Knock Riada – one garden in particular in the latter had a wonderful display of calla lilies. A number of the elevated gardens on the Luacan approach were quite unkempt and this is a pity given their prominent position. Many of the apartment complexes were visited and admired including Northcliffe, The Weir and The Island. Finally, New Row is quite simply stunning with almost every resident insisting upon having a front garden!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road network is good throughout Chapelizod enabling very heavy volumes of traffic daily. Footpaths too are, for the most part in good condition. Your close collaboration with DCC has been instrumental in this.

Unfortunately traffic calming measures on Martin's Row is not having the desired effect as speeding commercial vehicles and cars careered past the adjudicator.

General Impression:

It has been many years since this adjudicator visited Chapelizod and the chance was greatly anticipated – I was not disappointed. The village core is beautiful despite the blight of derelict buildings. New apartment developments enhance the older streetscape. Your committee face some quite unique issues to varying degrees of success. The teamwork here is phenomenal – well done.