

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finglas** Ref: **736**
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **259**
Category: **F** Date(s): **12/07/3013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	50	39	39
Landscaping	50	38	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Litter Control	50	25	26
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	11	11
Tidiness	30	17	16
Residential Areas	40	25	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	255	259

Overall Development Approach:

Finglas is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2013. Thank you for the completed application form, maps and images. Your committee was established in 2008 and you are making good progress. A committee is sufficient given the additional support from Finglas Historical Society and the volunteers on your sub-groups. The business community are commended for supporting the Tidy Towns financially. You have a healthy relationship with various agencies and public bodies who should be able to assist you in an advisory capacity and potentially finding of programmes. It is encouraging to note that you are using the internet to communicate. Social media is suggested as an effective means of communicating with the younger generations. Well done on the promotion of the Green Flag and Schools Gardens programmes. Your comment in relation to a 5 Year plan was noted however it appears that a copy was not included in your submission. Please ensure that the plan is updated annually and include it with your 2014 application.

The Built Environment:

Finglas, like many other communities is suffering from the impact of the recession. It is a pity that the Finglas Village Regeneration programme was halted but you are commended for your tenacity in ensuring that the village core does not fall foul of dereliction. Congratulations on the opening of the new state of the art Finglas Addiction Support Centre which is doubling up now as a community meeting point. Well done on you efforts to tackle the graffiti issue in the village. This adjudicator suggests that you liaise with the Temple Bar Company who have an innovative but effective way of dealing with eyesores via graffiti – you may get some ideas from them. The Willows Bar, Credit Union and The Shamrock Lodge were admired fro their fresh appearance. The window boxes and hanging baskets at Drogheda House were quite spectacular and in keeping with the village planting colour scheme. The raised black and gold street signs are wonderful and assist in defining the village and its environs. Beneavin de la Salle was noted for its pristine buildings, wall and grounds. The shop front at Mace was being painted and well done and thank you to the following business for their improvement works on shop fronts Molloy's, Michael Doyle Funeral Home, Fanigans, Tunney's Optician, Village Medical Centre. St Canices Church and grounds were neat and tidy and enhances by seasonal flowers. The Bottom of the Hill was admired for its floral display.

Landscaping:

New paving was in the process of being laid as the adjudicator passed, enhancing further the trees and seasonal

blooms. You are commended in your recognition of the importance of permanent, as this tends to require less maintenance and provide interest year round. Pretty blooms brightened the base of the village signs and many were noted. The green area at Beneavin Park is superb with tasteful planting at the extremities. Further along the base of a tree outside #29 had a welcome pop of colourful blooms at its base. The green area at Cedarwood Road is well trimmed and the numerous well matured trees were offering welcome shelter on this hot July day. A spectacular series of hanging baskets with trailing petunias in shades of pink were noted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work in this aspect of the competition is still in its infancy. However there plans for the completion of major projects in the coming years. You have mentioned a series of projects that are being managed, implemented and planned. Please consider the preparation of an overall Biodiversity plan for the area as additional points will be attributed on its submission. It is fantastic to see that the schools are making a serious contribution and you are commended on the allotment development. The Tolka Valley is the most wonderful amenity and yes, it holds significant value in your endeavours in the competition. Presently it is separated geographically from your core adjudication area and this needs to be addressed. Perhaps you need to include a portion of Finglas South in the adjudication area next year?

Litter Control:

Your comments in relation to Finglas being as a former litter black spot was read with interest. You have come a long way and significant progress has been made. Litter is the responsibility of every resident and businessperson. It is unacceptable to drop litter but it is equally unacceptable to walk past litter if you can pick it up and deposit it in the nearest bin. Continued work with DCC and the litter warden specifically will be an intrinsic part of the management of litter given with large geographic area Finglas covers. A scattering of litter was noted at Willow Park Shops. A serious issue was identified at Drogheda Mall with a significant outbreak – this needs to be taken in hand and business would be great if the Mall's businesses took the ownership.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This aspect of the competition has changed direction on previous year, which covers 'Waste Minimisation'. Whilst recycling is important it is equally imperative to reuse when possible. Now a more holistic approach so please refer to the handbook for further advice. Please consider hosting at least one workshop for businesses and residents on one topic. It would appear that the majority of schools in Finglas are participants in the Green Flag Programme so congratulations to all teachers and children involved.

Tidiness:

Finglas is well on the way to developing its image of tidiness. Your tenacity in relation to graffiti management is admired. The bus stops are neat and tidy in appearance. The new one at St. Canices Church in particular looked well. The bollards at Drogheda Mall would benefit from a fresh coat of paint.

Residential Areas:

Having weaved through the many housing estates of Finglas I think it is fair to say that there is clear pride in the presentation of properties for the most part. The tree-lined approach to Clancy Avenue was admire. Other areas of note were Beanevin Road, Willow Park, Cedarwood, Ballygall Road and Seamu Ennis Road. Congratulations to the residents of Kilshane on their success in the Dublin City Neighbourhoods Awards they have really thrown down the gauntlet to other residential areas! General advice to residents is to pay attention to detail when it comes to the presentation of boundary walls, capstones and the presence of weeds in driveways.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You are commended on your close collaboration with DCC in relation to approach roads and indeed path management. All in all road throughout the back areas are in a good state of repair with clean smooth road surfaces.

General Impression:

Finglas is a busy and vibrant community with much to be proud of. Congratulation on your progress over the last 5-years. Your efforts can clearly seen by any visitor to the village. You will make good progress in the competition in the coming years. Keep up the good work!