

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Raheny** Ref: **176**
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **274**
Category: **E** Date(s): **02/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	50	34	36
Landscaping	50	35	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	28
Litter Control	50	33	32
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	10	10
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270	274

Overall Development Approach:

Raheny is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2013. Thank you for your comprehensive application, which, included images, maps, a completed application, press clippings and other supporting information. Please be aware the inclusion of a separate 3-year plan will enable mark optimisation in this section – this plan should be updated annually. Your group is together a mere twelve years and the results are fantastic for a relatively short time frame in Tidy Towns terms. Your mission 'Raheny be Proud' a great place to live and do business, is well founded. It is not surprising that the village is winning awards. The commitment is your committee of 18 is exceptional with weekly meetings being held. It is encouraging too to note that you work actively with Raheny Business Association and The Federation of Raheny Residences. Regular meeting with the schools will ensure the sustainability of your planning through to the next generation.

The Built Environment:

There is a strong ecclesiastical presence in the central Raheny area and the quality of presentation of these has been noted. Well done on the improvement work on village cottages. Seasonal planting enhances the Garda Station. Many business premises were admired including Carville Rickard & Co., EBS, The Station House, Raheny Carpets and Sweet and Dandy to name but a few. Clearly there is a co-ordinated approach. Mint Cottage is in a prominent position and its presentation is outstanding – the premises were freshly painted, fretwork was crisp and box hedging softened its appearance. Perhaps a longer-term plan could be to extend these floral displays to the All Saints shopping area. The Dart Station certainly plays its part in maintaining a high standard of presentation.

Landscaping:

From the Howth approach it is clear that something special awaits. The use of trees throughout the village and its environs is marvellous – almost an extension of St. Annes Park. The Raheny village signs are uniform in presentation and this helps define an urban village. Tiered planters are used to good effect in the village centre. The new boat planter on All Saints Drive is attractive and is an indicator of the maritime location. Two colourful circular beds added interest at the library. In Rathmore Park the manicured green was interrupted by display of roses, shrubs and seasonal blooms under the shelter of a sycamore - beautiful. The support of Blooming Baskets, local businesses and Dublin City Council in the co-ordinated approach throughout the village centre was noted. Tucked away at the end of Foxfield Heights a small area of permanent planting ensures year round

interest. In the At Assam's Road area many tree bases were enhanced by summer bloom and one outside #5/7 had a pretty wildflower display including cornflowers. Congratulations on the work thus far on the River Project.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Raheny is in the enviable position of having a river valley, parkland and maritime setting. Thank you for including the Biodiversity Survey of the grassland, arboretum, allotments, river and pond. This provides you essentially with an inventory and the next step is to consider how to manage the resources in a sustainable manner. Please consider developing an all-encompassing Biodiversity Plan – perhaps in association with Dublin City Council. Much of the research is already completed so you are half way there.

Litter Control:

Your daily litter picks are commended, as is your co-ordinated approach with schools and local groups. Well done on the implementation of the dog fouling campaign. A few areas of concern were noted on the adjudicator's rounds however. Dumping was noted beside the bring bank at the Library and a scattering of litter was also noted to the rear of the Library car park. The railing at the basketball courts close to St. Mary's Convent is a real issue with a large-scale litter outbreak – this is a busy pedestrian route so please consider how best to solve this problem.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

You will note that this category has changed this year from 'Waste Minimisation' – please refer to the handbook provided for guidance. The information provided in your application indicated that you have a good understanding of this area. In saying that, please consider hosting a workshop of the community or businesses annually to educate and create awareness. Scoil Aine is congratulation on their 6th Green Flag. The Bring Banks are clearly busy amenities.

Tidiness:

Bins at the main junction in the village had been freshly painted and were clean in appearance. Rathmore Park is commended for its weed-free status. The All Saints area is less consistent in relation to weed management. The railing at Manor House School could do with some TLC and similarly the gate the Health Centre would also benefit from a fresh coat of paint. It is a pity about the burnt out house as this detracts from the overall impression of this area. Well done on your plans to remove plastic ties – attention to detail – that's what it's all about!

Residential Areas:

First impressions are the quaint Crescent Cottages, which immediately endear the passer by. You have rightly identified that Rathmore Park is a gem. Close by St. Assam's Road/Park are certainly playing their part in enhancing Raheny. The red-bricked residence on Watermill Road looked well and the garden at #39 was fantastic. Maturing trees added to Avondale. The variety of properties on the Howth Road is great with the majority maintained to a very high standard. Please encourage high presentation standards of boundary walls, as this is often the 'first impression'.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads throughout the village are in good condition. Back areas too are clean and tidy I refer specifically to the laneway to Avondale and the cleanly presented bollards where Foxfield and St Assams meet.

General Impression:

Raheny is a marvellous Urban Village. Your methodical approach and huge local support is intrinsic to your success to date. You are well placed to achieve at the highest level of the Tidy Towns Competition in the years to come. Significant progress will be made on the completion and provision of formal plans (3 Year, Sustainable Waste and Resource Management and Biodiversity). You are doing a superb job – well done to all.