

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Temple Bar** Ref: **179**
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **271**
Category: **D** Date(s): **11/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	44	45
The Built Environment	50	34	35
Landscaping	50	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Litter Control	50	34	35
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	11	12
Tidiness	30	18	18
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	267	271

Overall Development Approach:

Temple Bar is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2013. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator your submission is unique in that it is prepared and submitted by a private entity rather than a community group. The profile of the population is primarily transient renters rather than long standing residents. Your submission is highly professional, comprehensive and included an excellent colour coded map and good use of imagery. I think it is fair to say that the focus of your groups is in harnessing the power of the business community and this you do well with monthly coffee mornings and efficient use of e-communication. There are no schools in the area nor young families so you are lacking in this regard. The Temple Bar Company has an extensive network of partners, sponsors and supporters you enable the sustainable management of the area. You are commended on raising in excess of €4million since 2004 and reinvesting it in infrastructural improvements and the promotion of Temple Bar. Please ensure that you are clearly indicating what projects under each heading have been completed in the last 12 months. It is recommended that in addition to your submission a 3-year plan, updated annually, be submitted too. Perhaps include a copy of Temple Bar 2020 – The Future next year.

The Built Environment:

Firstly, you are commended on your comprehensive understanding of the history and cultural importance of various buildings and streets. Traditional shop front at Preen, Mr Simms, The Turks Head, The Quays Bar and Kearneys are a wonderful asset. On Anglesea Street #10 was admired in blue and white and its Cultural and Environment Award was noted. Similarly the Olympia is fresh in appearance with attractive canopy. Farringtons, The Temple Bar, Fitzgeralds had wonderful floral displays enhancing their facades. Hanging baskets were admired at Copper Alley Bistro, Harding Hotel Darky Kelly's and George Frederic Handel Hotel. The mural at the confluence of Bedford Row and Fleet Street demonstrates how graffiti can be used to good effect. Dwarf Jar Coffee is commended for its impeccable presentation. It was freshly painted and spotlessly clean despite being on a dusty quayside location. It would be great if all premises adhered to this high standard of cleanliness. Beautiful stained glass windows were noted on Prices Lane. The Morgan Hotel and Crunch Fitness Premier were gleaming in the sunshine.

Landscaping:

The tree-lined avenue at Parliament Street frames the approach to Dublin Castle and has the dual impact of

softening the urban landscape. The hard landscaped area at the 'Old City' is clean and attractive and good use of trees was noted here too. Floral displays are primarily featured on pubs some have been mentioned previously, and are quite spectacular. Lamp standards with hanging baskets throughout Fleet Street added elevated colour. Window boxes and hanging baskets enhanced Merchants Arch. The foreground of the Central Bank looked great with granite seats protecting the base of the maturing trees.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is encouraging to note that a Biodiversity Study was conducted in 2009. Whilst you are certainly limited in your green areas Temple Bar has a significant treescape and this is commended. Crampton Court offers a small urban garden area and it would be great to see this area managed. Your suggestion of a rooftop garden was read with interest – please keep us posted on progress.

Litter Control:

You probably have the most comprehensive litter programme in the country given that it is everyday and this is required due to the busy local and foreign tourist trade. Clearly you work closely with DCC and An Taisce in the management of litter. Your programme encompasses cleaning, power washing, graffiti and cigarette vacuuming. Some litter was dispersed at various locations but there were no serious outbreaks of note. Well done.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

The element of the competition has changed somewhat since last year where it was simply 'Waste Minimisation'. Please refer to the handbook to assist you in this aspect of the competition next year. Your many initiatives to raise awareness span from noise reduction to alcohol being issues only in sealed bags to prevent drinking on the street and subsequently littering. This adjudicator would like to hear more about efforts to segregate litter in Temple Bar – does Dublin City Council do this? The FOG initiative is a good one and tackles the blocked drains issue – bad stench was noted in some of the back lanes and perhaps this was part of the cause. The contribution of the Green Building has been noted.

Tidiness:

The hoarding at the vacant site on Lower Exchange Street detracts from an otherwise attractive area. Helpful green and white finger posts were fresh in appearance and noted at a number of locations directing the passer-by to many of Temple Bar's areas of note. The ramp and steps at IBAT are very dirty and would benefit from power washing. The blue and white street signs are quite tired and should be refreshed or replaced. The gates and railing at Crampton Court is a fantastic asset and it would be great to see these revitalised. A bad outbreak of graffiti was noted at the back of the bus stop on Aston Quay and close by the four Eircom phone boxes were very grubby.

Residential Areas:

There is a good understanding of the profile of the residents however they are not presently involved in volunteering to assist in your work. It is imperative that you focus on the red bricked apartments and environs at Crampton Court on Adsills Row. Whilst your concerns are noted in relation to anti-social behaviour in Bedford Lane, Pricess Lane, Adair Lane and Parliament Row this adjudicator would prefer tackling the problem with improved lighting and cameras first and only as a last resort revert to gating off the lanes. You are commended for your engagement with the local residents, Gardai, Fire Officers, DCC representatives and businesses.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main areas for concern here are Bedford Lane Pricess Lane, Adair Lane and Parliament Row and you have plans afoot to deal with this in the medium term. Cobble streets are an intrinsic part of this cultural centre and are well maintained. Please keep us informed on the progress of the Temple Bar Hotels planning application to bring the laneway into use.

General Impression:

Temple Bar is a busy social and cultural hub. Your support of fledgling businesses is commended. We look forward to an update on your Purple Flag endeavours next year. Well done on the management of this vibrant urban setting.