

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymun** Ref: **854**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **272**
Category: **G** Date(s): **01/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	35	37
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	40	40
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
TOTAL MARK	450	265	272

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballymun is most welcome to the 2015 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form with map and photos. It's a pleasure to be back in Ballymun to see first-hand the progress that has been made in recent years. The adjudicator admires your continue dedication and it is great to read how the competition has helped the community to engage with each other and their environment. You are maintaining a strong committee structure with good contacts with support agencies. As you gain experience and become established as a respected local voice do ensure that you maintain an open door and encourage new bodies on your committee. You have a wide range of communication tools and it is welcome that you are using social media. Do you have any links with other tidy towns groups in Dublin or further afield? These can frequently result in new partnerships and exchange of ideas. It is great to read how you involve young people and schools in your work through the various programs and initiatives. Is tidy towns working to a three-year plan? It is recalled that you did when you first entered and if this has reached the end of its life it would be useful to restart the process. Do learn from your successes and areas in which were not so successful. A new strategic plan will be sure to steer your progress in the competition. Your use of photos with your application form is great but do please caption them so that the adjudicator knows what is being shown. Nevertheless it is great to see smiling people at work volunteering for the area. Do review the tidy towns manual to ensure that you describe your projects under the relevant category. This will avoid any confusion that may occur when points are being awarded under the various headings.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Your perseverance with derelict sites is commended and the 'reverse graffiti' project is a great way to address this while also involving young people. Do continue to assert yourselves with Dublin City Council and the gardai in matters of law enforcement. They are essential partners but also engage with your local politicians and TDs as necessary. The Ballymun in Bloom Festival is an excellent opportunity to have some fun and social contact. It is important that the community celebrates its successes. Well done on painting the railings outside the shopping centre. The presentation along Main Street is very good with clean separation of roads and footpaths and clean building facades. The bamboo at the sports centre needs to be cut back slightly while the managers here should clear the litter out from these areas. Miami Sun, Glamorous and the barbers have very eye-catching shop fronts. However great quantities of cigarette ends had accumulated in kerbs and parking areas here. The library is a lovely building and clearly occupying an important space in the community. It was beautifully adorned on adjudication day with flowers while the well-established trees add greatly to the inviting air. Trinity Comprehensive has a very striking entrance while the statue of Misneach was new to this adjudicator - and very impressive it is too! The Garda station also is modern and quite clean. Some weeding and sweeping would be welcome. The civic square is a very attractive open-space but some litter and especially cigarette ends need to be addressed. You are wished success with the redevelopment of the shopping centre.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Some of the projects you listed here were completed before June of last year and so should not be re-entered. However it is still clear that a lot of work has been done in the past 12 months in planting and landscaping. The 'beautiful spaces' competition sounds great and do give us an update next year on how it works. You are fortunate to have two community gardens and these no doubt are important amenities for local people. The upgrading of the tree basis in the central median is most welcome and hopefully will cut down on work required here. Many of your trees are maturing nicely. Do remember to remove supports from around those where they are no longer needed. The playing pitches at the Setanta club are a fantastic amenity and were looking very well on adjudication day. Lime trees along the central median are maturing very well while the new bases are very effective in terms of presentation. We hope the remainder we get the same treatment. The Muck and Magic community garden was admired but we couldn't see how to get in.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

This has traditionally been a very strong area for you and your initial decision to prepare a long-term plan has stood you in good stead. The adjudicator would like to have seen the review of how this plan was implemented to see the areas in which you have been successful. Were there events for biodiversity day in 2015? The youth gardening club is a great way to engage children in this area and will hopefully give them an appetite for greenery as they get older. Is there an element for wildlife in the Park Stewardship Program? It would be great to see young people developing and implementing their own ideas for parks development. You mentioned elsewhere that the girl's school planted a butterfly garden. To follow up on this it would be good to know how successful it was and which species of butterfly they were able to identify. The large wildflower meadow is one of the best this adjudicator has seen as it genuinely has a lot of wildflowers. A successful legacy from your biodiversity action plan!

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Action items in relation to litter and tidiness should not be detailed under this category. The Ecostore is a fantastic resource for the community to have and the various workshops are very good in addressing waste and resource use. Well done to Trinity Comprehensive for their first green flag, this is a great achievement for them. It is incredible that the Holy Spirit girls national school has become the first in Europe to achieve all green flags! That's something all of the community in Ballymun should be especially proud of. The adjudicator would like to have seen the greenhouses made out of plastic bottles, or even a photo of them, as it sounds so innovative. The Muck and Magic composting demonstrations are another excellent project. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

This is a very important category and despite the considerable progress you have made in this regard in recent years it will be important to maintain the momentum. Vigilance in terms of actual litter picks but also awareness raising continuously in schools and elsewhere is always needed. You are commended for taking part in the national spring clean. Well done on your achievement at the Gateway apartments. This it is hoped that residents here can be encouraged to participate in your activities in the future and gain appreciation for the quality of their local environment. It's great that the area in front of the library has been enhanced, a before and after photo would have shown the adjudicator what was achieved here. The weekly cleanups are essential in maintaining the high standards required. You could also work with local businesses in making sure everyone plays their part in keeping Ballymun clean and tidy. Parking bays to the side of Supervalu have gathered a lot of cigarette ends and need to be swept. Rubbish bins need to be washed. Boyle's also needs to sweep its exterior why some of the lettering over its window is missing. Four poles, perhaps originally for a pedestrian crossing, are not being used and should be removed. Generally litter control was good on adjudication day with the exception of cigarette butts. Perhaps a combination of businesses sweeping their areas along with some awareness raising measures would be worthwhile.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Your series of competitions is excellent and it is great to read how the garden category prize is much sought after. Do include some photos of the winning entries. The 'greening your neighbourhood workshops' run by the global action plan are another important initiative. Do provide details next year on how these were received and what was achieved. Many attractive homes were admired along Gateway Crescent. Well done to those residents of Gateway View who went to the trouble of hanging out lovely baskets of flowers. The added a great splash of colour on adjudication day. An amazing display of roses was admired on Shanliss road. The mowing of some areas to maintain the summer meadow is a very good idea where it can be implemented.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

This adjudicator noticed the welcome sign on approach from the city centre. It looks very well and is of good quality, additional large planting would attract more attention to it. Similarly on approach from the M50 the sign perhaps is just too small to have much of an impact.

Concluding Remarks:

This was another very strong entry from Ballymun and the level of activity you continue to maintain is admirable. Best of luck and we look forward to returning in 2016.

