

Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyfermot** Ref: **156**
County: **Dublin(City)** Mark: **233**
Category: **G** Date(s): **23/06/2010**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009	Mark Awarded 2010
Overall Development Approach	50	30	31
The Built Environment	50	30	30
Landscaping	50	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	27
Litter Control	50	26	24
Waste Minimisation	20	11	12
Tidiness	30	14	14
Residential Areas	40	24	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230	233

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks to Ballyfermot TidyTowns group for your application form, map and photos. It is wonderful to read how active you have been over the past year. You clearly have a strong committee and good contacts with local organisations. Please take note of suggestions from the adjudicator's report and see how they can be incorporated into the plans for the coming year. To this end you should consider developing a three-year-plan. See the TidyTowns manual for more information but this would start by identifying actions under each of the contest headings. It is a vision of what you would like to achieve for the town but actions should be realistic. Please use your map to identify projects that you have been working on since the last adjudication as this is where additional points will be awarded.

The environmental week is a fantastic initiative. Do your volunteers wear high vis vests with the TidyTowns logo printed on them when out and about? This is a great way to raise awareness of the work you are doing.

The Built Environment:

No details were given on projects under this heading. The town centre was taken to be the areas centred on commercial activity. The new leisure centre is a striking feature and a fantastic amenity for the area. Business fronts are generally tidy and well kept. Kylemore College looks very well and its beautiful trees really soften the hard lines of roads and buildings. The railings need to be wire brushed and painted. Congratulations to the BCFE on its OCSAR success! It brought national attention to Ballyfermot. Missing letters on the wall should be replaced. A great project would be to paint 'Our Lady of the Assumption' church as it is a very grey building. The ground were nice and the roses in particular were admired. Tesco looks very well. The new building under construction beside Boyle sports looks exciting, hopefully it will be finished in time for adjudication in 2011.

Landscaping:

The community allotment project is excellent. Last year's report mentioned that you had an extensive tree planting programme – how is this going? Beautiful flower displays were admired at the Grange Cross junction. Landscaping near the Post Box needs attention. There is also graffiti and dumping of electrical goods in this area. New trees on California hills park were admired – more of the same here would greatly increase its wildlife and amenity value. Landscaping on the church roundabout looks really well and the stone name sign is a great feature. The new garden at the Ballyfermot Resource looks great – well done!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife talks with Eric Dempsey are excellent. Birds are one of the best indicators of environmental health and encouraging people to nurture these animals can have significant environmental benefits. Trips to Knocksink and Trinity Science Gallery are also great for raising awareness. As suggested in last year's report you should consider preparing a wildlife plan. This would start by surveying your green areas and identifying actions to enhance these habitats so that birds and other wildlife will be attracted. Contact Dublin City Council or the Heritage Council for assistance in this. There is a field beside Kylemore College which is a perfect wildlife area. It is great to see St. Michael's proudly flying their Green Flag in their well landscaped grounds.

Litter Control:

Participation in the national Spring Clean is a great initiative. What do you do to raise awareness of litter control, not only in the school, but among the wider community? Are there regular litter patrols? Wearing high vis TidyTowns vests while doing this is great for advertising your work. Litter was a major problem around the Leisure Centre seriously detracts from this otherwise attractive civic space. The car parks of commercial areas were also littered. There was dumping in the land beside Roma. Litter is a pervasive and serious problem for the town and one which you should consider addressing urgently.

Waste Minimisation:

It is fantastic that six of your schools have a Green Flag and well done to St. Michael's on their recent TidyTowns award! Are there remaining schools yet to apply for a Green Flag? How are the lessons learnt by the schools spread through the community? Remember, recycling is important but it is much better to avoid the generation of waste in the first place. Work with business on reducing packaging, encourage homes to compost their organic waste. Other ideas may be to discourage junk mail by putting a 'no junk mail please' sticker on hall doors, or encouraging the use of reusable coffee mugs and water bottles. Its great to see secure bicycle stands around the town but few bicycles in evidence. What can be done to encourage cycling?

Tidiness:

No details were given in your application form under this heading. Overhead lamp posts and wires create a sense of clutter in the skyline – why not approach the ESB to see if anything can be done. Nearby Chapelizod has been greatly enhanced by removing overhead wires. Road and footpath surfacing is to a good standard. Paving needs to be weeded however. The 'Iceland' sign is graffitied and graffiti was a particular problem on the Bank of Ireland building.

Residential Areas:

The plant sales are a novel way to encouraging people to enhance their gardens. The garden competitions are also great ways to achieve this. Do you have residents associations in your estates? How could their formation be encouraged? Volunteerism within estates can go a long way towards generating civic pride and creating a better environment throughout the town. Beautiful gardens in front of private homes were admired all over Ballyfermot. Father Lemass Court is an excellent development that really enhances the streetscape in this area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

No information on projects was given under this heading. The erection of 'welcome to Ballyfermot' signs on approach roads would be a great initiative to define the town and set it apart from surrounding suburbs. Street signage in general was lacking – perhaps this is something you could work with Dublin City Council on addressing. Where it does exist it is old and/or graffitied.

General Impression:

Ballyfermot is a thriving commercial and social centre. The work of the TidyTowns committee is doing marvellous things to enhance its environment. This adjudicator found that there is great potential here to advance in this contest under all headings. It is suggested that litter control be your number one priority for 2011 while a three-year-plan would also set out additional projects so that points can be won in other areas. Best of luck!

