

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clondalkin** Ref: **2107**
County: **Dublin(South)** Mark: **202**
Category: **F** Date(s): **07/07/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	26
The Built Environment	50	0	28
Landscaping	50	0	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	17
Litter Control	50	0	24
Tidiness	30	0	16
Waste Minimisation	20	0	4
Residential Areas	40	0	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	28
General Impression	10	0	6
TOTAL MARK	400	0	202

Overall Development Approach:

Clondalkin TidyTowns is welcome to the TidyTowns competition 2012. Thank you for your entry form and helpful map. Your participation in the TidyTowns is important. Your committee of 12 are engaging well with the local authority and other relevant bodies. This will be helpful to you as a committee as you go through your work. As this is your first year you should consider putting together a three year plan. This plan can be done by a professional or by a member of your community. When putting the plan together the views of the community are important. Remember to take into account any other proposed plans prepared by the local authority. Each year you can submit a copy of all projects from the plan that you have undertaken for that year and send them together with your entry form to the TidyTowns.

The Built Environment:

Clondalkin has many attractive buildings making up the streetscape of this lovely town. The town has an attractive park, which is a great amenity for the community. On Convent Road the fine building of the Church of the Immaculate Conception stands very imposing. The parish centre is also part of this area and was noted. On to Main Street and St Johns Church, another landmark of the town, is another attractive building. The Mill shopping centre was bustling with activity on the day. This area once known as Clondalkin Paper Mill, still towering over the town is its landmark round tower, which is a superb feature of the town. The town has plenty of interesting buildings such as Tillys Castle and the Library which is a great amenity for the town. Scoil Mhuire 1959 to name just one of its fine schools with its impressive green flags was equally noted. The new stone "Welcome to Clondalkin Village" was very much admired by the adjudicator.

Landscaping:

There was lovely landscaping throughout the town. The nice mature trees and shrubs on Monastery road

were superb. The main street had plenty of hanging baskets that brought colour to the town. The park also adds to the landscaping of the town. Gardens in all houses were pretty and neat. The following are some recommendations from the TidyTowns unit. When planting new areas try and provide year round seasonal colour. This will also help by providing food for wildlife. The planting of herbaceous plants is also more sustainable and will reduce costs. When planting trees on approach roads, the planting of one tree species is more effective and creates an avenue effect. Contained planting is best placed on hard surfaces and not on grass. Also planting at the base of trees is not appropriate as the plants compete with tree roots for food and water. These are some recommendations to consider when planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Having the river in close proximity to the town is an added advantage for natural habitats. Natural growth along the river will provide food and will encourage wildlife. The park with its mature trees and hedging is also a natural amenity. The many trees, hedging and stone walls all provide food and shelter for wildlife. Some recommendations in this category are to carry out a habitat survey or a biodiversity survey obtaining information on the species and habitats in the community. You may need assistance with this and those of the community who have knowledge of wildlife may be able to help in this area. Do try and engage with the schools in such a project. Establishing walks and nature trails for the community is another project. Food for thought.

Litter Control:

This category is about the community, local authority and especially the schools working together to combat litter. Without a detailed plan of action groups find it difficult to deal with litter. Engage with the schools and get the schools involved in national clean ups and identify the litter black spots and get the council to help. Get each estate to take care of their own areas, also encourage businesses to keep their own area. Once a plan of action is in place and litter picks are carried out regularly you will have achieved your goal. Good luck.

Tidiness:

Well done on your work for this year's competition. Weed control is problematic this year and some was noted at the base of kerbs and walls. This can give an untidy feel. Graffiti was noted and can be a problem, persistence in combating this will reap benefits. Any unused or damaged street furniture needs to be removed as they can be untidy and unsafe also. Some road boundary walls were in need of painting, keep working with residents to combat this problem. The bring bank also forms part of this category and it is important that this area is kept clean and tidy.

Waste Minimisation:

In this category entrants are encouraged to move beyond just picking litter and to take steps to actually reduce the amount of waste produced in the community. Some areas that can be looked at are to carry out a waste audit. The race against waste booklet available from the TidyTowns unit has some helpful guidelines on such an audit. Engage with the green schools programme. Segregate litter on clean up days. Compost leaves and grass and reuse as compost for landscaping. In any endeavours to practice community composting please ensure to engage with the local council. The key factor in this category is the reduction of waste produced.

Residential Areas:

Most of the residential areas in the town were well presented. It is always difficult with any committee to engage with residents and get everyone on board. The following are some guidelines for further direction in this category. Road boundary walls need to be painted and maintained. Timber fences will require treatment. All estates should be encouraged to provide entrance name signs and directional signage within the estate. Maintain green open grass areas and landscape where possible. Encourage estates to take part in litter clean ups and if possible organise competitions between estates and this will help address all of the above. Well done on all the work that the committee and the community have done in this category for this year's competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The overall presentation of all approach roads is of critical importance. It is this that gives the first impression of the area. Attractive well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares how others see them. The approach roads to Clondalkin were generally well presented. The roundabouts were well planted. The welcome to Clondalkin stone was a nice feature. The trees and hedging all looked well on the roads leading to the town. Continue the good work in this category.

General Impression:

Clondalkin is a nice town and it is great to receive you entry to the TidyTowns. There is no doubt that the

competition will be of great assistance in meeting your objectives. You have done good work for this year's competition. Best of luck for this year's competition and further success in the following years.