

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SWORDS**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The developmental approach as presented by Swords is both comprehensive and impressive involving the Council and the whole community. The projects proposed are both worthwhile and will greatly enhance the whole Swords area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We acknowledge Broadmeadow estuary is a sanctuary for birds and swans and other wildlife, there are also quite a number of parks located in the Swords area. It would be a good idea to get environmental experts within the locality involved to provide you with information to further enhance the immense potential wildlife has in Swords and its surrounding area. There are quite a few areas in Swords which are abundant with shrubs providing an enhancement for wildlife.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping in Swords is to be commended; the areas in Ward Valley and River Valley are particularly well turned out. The flower beds at the entrance to Swords at the Dublin Road is very impressive as are the flowers around the Welcome to Swords signs. Some other areas where there are hedges etc - particularly to the side of JCs could be better maintained, with litter in evidence on adjudication day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the more prominent buildings looked very well on adjudication day. In particular the Credit Union on North Street looked very attractive as did St. Columba's Church as did most of the shops along main street, i.e. Hawthorn Hotel and the Cock Tavern. It is noted however, that Swords old Borough National School could be more developed, this would enhance the town greatly due to its prominent location. The Carnegie Free Library was quite disappointing with very badly neglected window boxes and the forecourt full of weeds. Also graffiti was in evidence on the walls of the building adjacent to Fingal Tourism.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good in the village. North Street and Watery Lane and the area outside of the Castle Shopping Centre and JC's Shopping Centre would need to be greatly improved. There was quite a lot of litter in these areas. There were also uncollected litter from bins along Watery Lane.

TIDINESS

The standard of tidiness throughout the Swords area was inconsistent. The main street was quite good on adjudication day but along areas such as Watery Lane, there were many weeds in evidence. The surroundings of Fingal County Depot opposite Broadmeadow estate were particularly badly kept, with uncut grass and an unsightly broken wooden fence outside. This would need to be upgraded. Graffiti on walls of Quality Shop on main street could also be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the individual houses and housing estates were very well turned out on adjudication day. Great care seemed to have been taken with individual gardens and planting. Some of the grass verges on a few estates e.g. Castle Farm could have been slightly better maintained. Some boundary walls could use upgrading.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the approach roads into Swords are very well presented. On adjudication day the approach from Malahide looked exceptionally well; it might be added that a welcome to Swords sign might be erected at this point as with the other two main approaches. Some of the back areas of Swords could be a little better maintained - i.e. the back and forecourt of JC's Shopping Centre and the Castle Shopping Centre.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee in Swords is to be commended. Overall the town on adjudication day was impressive with the extra tree planting and flower beds.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/96)

The town of Swords looked well on second adjudication day - the wide Main Street looked neatly presented but was quite littered. The lamp-posts outside DID electrical were rather flaky and should be painted. The telephone boxes were missing doors, and the perspex was badly stained. Some dereliction opposite the courthouse looks unfortunate. The triangular yard area with unpainted railings beside Advance Tyres looks most unsightly and should be screened or landscaped. Hoardings throughout the town give a very cluttered appearance and should be discouraged. The road signs outside the Swords Borough National School were quite grubby. The kerbside outside Colaiste Choilm was quite weedy and the metal chainlink fence with concrete vertical posts to the playing field should be replaced. The roundabout on the Dublin Road, however, looked as magnificent as ever.