

Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Swords** Ref: **160**
County: **Dublin(Fingal)** Mark: **257**
Category: **H** Date(s): **01/07/2010**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009	Mark Awarded 2010
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	35	36
Landscaping	50	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	28
Litter Control	50	31	31
Waste Minimisation	20	11	10
Tidiness	30	16	18
Residential Areas	40	26	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	253	257

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the TidyTowns Competition 2010 and thank you for a very detailed entry and lots of details on your work and the detailed maps which were perfect for use. Well done on your contact with other organisations and your involvement with a range of initiatives. Swords is very visibly improving. Please refer to previous suggestions on developing a working plan (you seem to be halfway there already!) as these are still valid.

The Built Environment:

How great it is to see the castle back in pride of place! The restoration work is fantastic and the grounds were really lovely to wander around in the glorious weather that Swords enjoyed on adjudication day. St Cronin's national school was spotless but there was no Green Flag or any of the 'eco' paraphernalia that one now expects in these forward-thinking places of learning. The BASE centre looked very very well. The RC church looks great and the planting at the grotto is very nice. The Shopping Centre at Swords Manor was very neat and tidy. The COI Church (St. Columba's) is lovely and well worth a visit. The old sexton's cottage is gorgeous with lovely planting. The parish centre looks very well and the old Rectory is a beautiful building. The Credit Union is an unusual design but looks well. Swords Town Centre looks great and was very busy. The Courthouse is a fine building but there was graffiti on its rather dusty doors. The Community College was very neat. Several pubs look really well.

Landscaping:

Main street, although busy, looked very well with very good quality trees, planters and baskets. This adjudicator as a rule does not single out individual businesses for comment but will make an exception for Morton and Flanagan – for always coming up trumps with flowers; and The Old Boro – a beautiful building

always but has turned on the style to celebrate the World Cup. Well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the clean-ups of the lovely rivers that Swords is lucky enough to have right on its doorstep. The linear park is excellent wildlife corridor. You are highly recommended to carry out a wildlife study as suggested last year. Fingal's Biodiversity Officer will be able to advise you on this. Growing Places is an excellent initiative.

Litter Control:

There was some litter seen on adjudication day. However there were no real blackspots noted. Your ongoing anti-litter work is to be commended. Do keep up your awareness work as this is the key. An ounce of prevention etc. Have you any litter-patrols involving young people?

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the amazing Green School success that is Swords! However, you are advised to read the TidyTowns Handbook on how to proceed in this section of the competition. This is not about segregation or recycling but on the prevention of waste arising in the first instance. Please do continue to work with the schools on this. You could also get advice from the County Council's environmental awareness officer. You must necessarily involve businesses and householders too.

Tidiness:

The pump at the corner of Bridge St and Rathbeale St looks well but there is some unsightly advertising here. The hoarding which advertises Arduim 'Town Centre' is awful. Generally dust and weed control was seen to be good. Quite a few name signs and posts need painting in the Rathbeale area. A bit of attention is required to bins and posts generally. The sign at the parish centre has some graffiti.

Residential Areas:

Several estates were visited. In some, graffiti is a minor issue. Some name signs need to be cleaned. Generally speaking, the quality of care and presentation was high. St. Columba's Rise stands out as an area with lovely gardens and great planting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Swords Main Street looks really great. It has come on so much in recent years. Traffic was flowing well. There were hardly any cyclists although parking for these has been added. Does your group see the closure of laneways as a positive action? Please refer to the TidyTowns Handbook (ref: the Residential Areas category). Road surface were generally good.

General Impression:

A visit to Swords is a pleasure nowadays. There is plenty of history, green (and wild) spaces and a vibrant centre with lots of attractive businesses. There is still much to do for your group. An anti-graffiti project might be worth considering. Do look again at waste minimisation and wildlife projects. You will find that there is support for you. Good luck.