

**DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL
TIDY DISTRICTS COMPETITION 2019 - JUDGING FORM**

1. Watsons Residents Association

Judging date: 11/06/19

Judging Criteria	Available	Marks Awarded
APPEARANCE		
Overall presentation and maintenance of all properties - maintenance of frontages, boundary and gable end walls. Gardens, where applicable, should be presented to a good standard.	10	8
Road, street appearance, grass verge maintenance, weeding, grass cutting, paths clean and swept, etc.	15	12
Landscaping , planted features, etc.	10	8
Natural amenities and habitats	10	8
LITTER / GRAFFITI		
Absence of Litter , fly-posting, and dumping, evidence of litter control strategy, including regular litter patrols, segregation of collected litter during clean-ups and promotion of anti-litter awareness throughout community.	20	17
Graffiti Management: Absence of graffiti, evidence of graffiti control strategy, including regular patrols, and promotion of anti-graffiti awareness throughout community.	15	15
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & EFFORT IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT (e.g. community clean ups, plantings etc. Please note, Santa days/ BBQs etc are not environmental improvement projects)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers involved on the committee: • Level of voluntary commitment (number of Tidy Towns meetings, community meetings, general involvement of the community at cleanups, planting days, new residents, etc.) Do they engage with their local schools, youth clubs, etc.? How do they involve youth with their group? (15) • Do they communicate with all ages within their community (newsletter, newspapers, public meetings, email, social media, schools)? (5) 	15	13
	5	5
TOTAL	100	86
Special Optional Award Category		
Climate Change Initiative Action(s), awareness campaign(s) or project(s) that promoted mitigation and/or adaption to a changing climate	10	

JUDGES COMMENTS (see overleaf)

Watson Killiney Report

Appearance

The overall appearance of the estate was good. The properties and gardens are to a high standard and the area gives an immediate impression of being well cared for.

Roads were well kept with only a few pieces of rubbish to be seen in the area. Grass verges seem to be getting cut less often and this is great as it helps to provide for biodiversity in the area

Planting in the area particularly around the road signs has moved away from bedding plants to pollinator friendly planting and this is particularly good for the area. This will lead to more sustainable practices such as less watering, less buying of plants as they last longer and hence less plastic (as most bedding plants come in lots of plastic that can't be recycled). It will also benefit the bees in the area and with the added benefit of the tall grass nearby will allow both nesting sites and food close by.

There is a good mix of uses on the green too. Lovely to see the wild area alongside areas kept shorter so children in the area can use this for games and outdoor play.

Litter/Graffiti

This section gets marks both for what is written on the application and what is seen on the day. The information in the application made it difficult to award many marks. 'Regular' litter picks year-round could be once a month, once a week etc... To gain more marks in this area more specific information is required.

The estate itself had very little litter on judging day and fared well on the points for on the day judging. The green areas in particular were lovely and clean. More points can be gained next year for giving more specific details on the application form.

Full marks were awarded for the graffiti section as no graffiti was seen on judging day and the application form showed a real commitment to removing it when it is discovered. It is great to hear that this problem is being tackled so successfully.

Community Participation & Effort in Environmental Improvement

It is important to note here that points are awarded for community participation in environmental improvement rather than fun days etc.

Overall the group scored highly in this section with evidence of real community spirit showing in the application. To gain higher points in this section more activities relating to supporting biodiversity would be beneficial. For example Daffodils hold very little value for pollinators while crocus and allium bulbs hold much more benefits for wildlife and should be considered as alternatives.

There was a big move in the community away from bedding plants and that was noted and reflected in the points awarded. There could be additional number of plants added behind the stones as there was only one plant behind in some cases but the types of plants used were excellent and will enhance the environment for local wildlife for years to come.

Engaging local business gains you more marks they can be asked to sponsor events or encouraged to go green. Also engaging youth in biodiversity projects such as bug hunts, eco days etc.

Special Optional Award Category

This was not entered by the group.