

Celbridge Tidy Towns Local Competitions 2011

The judging was carried out over three days in late July. The general standard of the estates is high and there is evidence on most of them of regular maintenance to a satisfactory level. In many areas the extra flourishes of colourful planted beds at the entrance and within the public areas are evident and well laid out.

The exceptionally low winter temperatures caused extensive damage in many areas both to community plantings and within gardens. Some of these have started to re-grow but others have died and should be replaced.

It is evident on many estates that hanging baskets full of colour and variety are really catching on. These provide a great uplift within the estates.

On some estates the original street tree plantings need either maintenance or replacement. The misshapen specimens should be pruned to re-establish a good shape or replaced.

The amount of graffiti seems to have increased. How this can be tackled should be debated but as a general rule graffiti attracts more graffiti. This may also be a generational thing with few individuals involved. The recurrence of particular monikers suggests that a prolific few are causing much of the problem.

In many areas the effects of the recession are evident with unfinished or barely started building projects which blight the visual environment.

It should be emphasised that the inspections were carried out during one week in the year. It may be that uncut grass in public areas was cut the day after the inspection. Comments which suggest that verges and public areas were uncut reflect a judgement that it was some time since these were cut in the past. Litter was more evident this year in some areas. In most areas where this was found the marks must reflect it. It was evident that the litter seen was recent and as a general comment few areas were badly littered. These are areas that might be addressed to improve what is otherwise an exceptional town. The backdrop of mature trees and well conserved buildings gives a pleasant impression of the area and is continued into many of the estates.

It is encouraging to see that many areas have maintained their excellent standards against a challenging economic scenario.

My friends in psychology tell me that our wellbeing and happiness depends fundamentally on our community involvement. For many of the estates the outward evidence of such involvement is gratifying.

Celbridge must be a happy environment.

Results:-

Artistic Endeavour Award – St. Patrick's Church

Best Commercial Flower Display – 1st Abbey Lodge, 2nd Castletown Inn, 3rd Mucky Duck

Best Commercial Premises – Larry O'Toole Trophy – 1st Absolutely Fabulous Flowers, 2nd Speaker Bar, 3rd Hogan's Bistro. Commendations: The Designer Exchange, Jasmine House and Color Trend.

Best Kept Estates:

Prior to 1985 – 1st Thornhill Gdns/Heights, 2nd Simmonstown Park, 3rd Dara Court

Best Kept Small Estate – 1st Chelmsford, 2nd Chesnut Grove, 3rd Simmonstown Pk

Best Kept Medium Estate – 1st Temple Manor, 2nd Thornhill Gdns/Heights, 3rd Beatty Grove

Best Kept Large Estate – 1st Primrose Gate, 2nd Wolstan Abbey, 3rd Wolstan Haven

Overall Winner – Temple Manor

Abbey Farm **79**

The promiss of the entrance was let down by litter and uncut verges. Graffiti has become common in Celbridge and is unfortunately present here.

St Raphaels Manor **75**

Some litter and weeds on roadsides. It would make more work but the individual areas within the larger estates are so variable it seems to be unfair to the better kept areas.

Celbridge Abbey **80**

Well maintained verges which were trimmed at the edges. The large public areas could have more coulour. Really good effort on the entrance.

Ballymakealy **66**

Some very good individual gardens and a nice entrance. The planting and general maintainance of the public areas could be much improved with a little more effort.

Oakleigh **72**

A little upgrading would improve the appearance greatly. Poorly maintained verges and weeds along roads. Roadside trees need some maintainance.

Grattan Court **80**

Generally very well presented but some uncut verges. Weeding and planting the bed along the roadside wall offers opportunies for improvement. Lots of well planted beds and containers in houses. Some weedy roadsides

Killadoon Park **79**

Well kept and imaginative gardens. Some roadside weeds but otherwise well kept. The green area is underutilised and a little effort here would improve the estate.

Oldtown Mill **77**

The entrance is well kept and maintained leading into a very varied group of side roads. Some such as The Cresent are very well kept and uplifting while others are not so good with weeds. The site at the end of the estate with rubbish strewn around is unfortunate.

Wolstan Haven **79**

Generally well presented with some roadside weeds but otherwise a pleasant estate

Venessa Lawns **68**

A more consistent approach would improve the general impression of this estate. Some areas well kept while others were not.

Thornhill Heights / Gardens **82**

This is well kept and maintained throughout with a bright, cheerful entrance. The street trees could benefit from an upgrade to improve it's pleasant environs.

Ballygoran Court/View **78**

Given the size of this estate it is very well kept. A very imaginative and colourful flower bed complements well kept verges. More attention to details such as the areas along the base of walls and trees would improve the overall impression.

Thornhill Meadows **79**

Well presented entrance but roadside weeds a problem.

Castle Village **75**

The general impression was good with some well presented and colourful gardens. On some of the side roads the verges were full of weeds.

Ashgrove **79**

Well kept but some verges needed trimming. Lanes joining estates often have litter and such was the case here.

Willowbrook Lodge **78**

Generally well maintained

Willowbrook Park **67**

The estate could be improved by care of the roadside margins.

Willowbrook Lawns **67**

Two very nice planters and variations from very well kept areas to poorly kept.

Beatty Park **70**

This area was let down by litter and road side weeds.

Beatty Grove **82**

Well kept and neat. The odd verge needed a cut but otherwise clean and tidy.

Croudaun Forest Park

78

Lots of nicely kept and maintained gardens. The main road through the estate is well kept and attractive. More attention to the side roads would improve this otherwise nice environment.

Hawthorn View

75

Some public areas very well looked after with nicely thought out flowering beds. Verges needed attentions as they were weedy. The setting of this estate with a backdrop of mature trees could be used to advantage.

Chestnut Grove

81

A secluded small estate with lots of attractive public areas and well maintained.

Larchfield Mews

71

Weeds which would take little to control.

Castletown Estate

77

This well kept estate has some nice individual touches with colourful roadside plants which could be profitable spread throughout the area. Ginko biloba is an excellent street tree and this is the first time I saw it used in Celbridge.

Dara Court

80

Clean and neat estate with well kept gardens.

Elm Park

79

Well kept nice small estate with some nicely kept gardens.

St Patricks Park

77

Amongst the most colourful gardens in Celbridge. As a walk through estate so close to the town centre it was exceptionally clean and tidy.

Venessa Close

75

Potentially this estate has great room to improve with better maintainance.

The Grove	76
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The Grove is blessed with mature trees that set off the estate well. Some weeds, litter and graffiti leave room for improvement.

Simmonstown Manor	79
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Neat and tidy with well kept verges.

Temple manor	85
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If there was a prize for best entrance this estate would win. Well presented and neat. Some nice touches in public areas in keeping with the overall appearance. If the greens had some more colour it would improve this estate.

Chelmsford	84
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The entrance was clean but could do with a little colour. Some nice planting around roadside trees. A very nice estate but a few weeds in public areas.

The Little Grove	77
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The grassy area near the main road has matured well. It could be usefully set off with an estate name and perhaps some planting. Some weeds about on the road side.

Primrose Hill / Temple lawns	74
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A little more effort to maintain the public areas would be useful. Some of the verges were very weedy along to road side.

Simmonstown Park	80
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A pleasant estate but some roadside weeds. Colour in the public areas would be nice.

Hazelhatch Park	69
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The public areas of this estate are extensive so the lack of maintenance is disappointing and could with a very little effort improve the environment greatly.

Primrose Gate	80
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The entrance is scarred by an abandoned building site but the individual gardens show lots of effort. Some weeds in the communal areas.

Wolstan Abbey	79
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Nice estate and generally well kept.
