

Celbridge – Bronze Medal Winners 2013/2014

Celbridge Tidy Towns Annual Awards 2014

Best Floral display:

- 1st Abbey Lodge
- 2nd Castletown Inn
- 3rd Centra

Highly Commended

Colortrend
Liffey View Physiotherapy

Best Business/Shop Front:

- 1st Michelangelo Restaurant
- 2nd Jassamine House
- 3rd Bank of Ireland

Highly Commended

Absolutely Fabulous Flowers
Hogan's Café Bistro
Cunningham's Funeral Home

Commended

Athena Hair Studio & La Prima Rosa

Most Improved

Top of The Town

Best New Entry

Bella Mia Boutique

Artistic Endeavour

St. Patrick's Church

Village Enhancement Award

The Mill

Best Large Estates:

- 1st: St. Wolstan's Abbey
- 2nd: Primrose Gate
- 3rd: Abbey Farm

Best Medium Estates:

- 1st: Celbridge Abbey
- 2nd: Temple Manor
- 3rd: Ballygoran View/Court

Best Small Estates:

- 1st: Little Grove
- 2nd: Killadoon Park & Grattan Court
- 3rd: Simmonstown Park

***** Overall Best Estate - St. Wolstan's Abbey *****

Large Estates Reviews

Again this year we noticed a greater effort all round and an almost complete absence of litter.

Abbey Farm 89 points

The estate has an excellent tasteful display at its entrance. All the green areas are well maintained and there was no evidence of litter. The 'Caution' sign on the main drive seems to have been freshened up. Overall this is a well-kept estate and a place its residents should be proud of.

Ballymakealy/Springfield 69 points

The entrance area has an excellent floral display and on the day of our visit we witnessed a resident removing litter. In other areas the widespread littering gives a poor impression of sections of the estate. It was good to see the new trees planted and the absence of graffiti.

St. Raphael's Manor 82 points

It was quite evident that residents have improved their estate since our visit last year. There was no evidence of litter or graffiti on the day of our visit. The two entrance areas are neat and well presented and many of the individual houses are well cared for with neat garden displays. Well done to all involved.

Oldtown Mill 82 points

The standards of estate management in Oldtown Mill are hard to equal. It is also evident that the residents are very proud of their estate and it shows. There is still some graffiti at the top of the estate. The fencing and screening of the vacant lot is a job well done. Overall a very pleasant appearance from such a large estate.

Woolstan Haven 80 points

We were very impressed with 'The Court' area in particular. The Avenue is also very well looked after and the little litter we observed was probably a result of bin-day. The greens are well cared for and the entire estate is kept to a high standard.

Castle Village 76 points

This estate is maturing well and there are many fine trees throughout the estate. The greens would look much better if the grass cuttings were removed. The estate would really benefit from a few floral displays at strategic areas.

Beatty Park 81 points

The floral display at the estate entrance is really impressive and we were very impressed by the well kept gardens and houses. There was a little graffiti on an ESB box and some more flowers would really improve the overall impression of this fine estate.

Castletown 80 points

The effort put in by local residents is clearly evident at both entrance areas. Graffiti has been removed since our visit last year. Well done to all concerned.

Crodaun Forest Park 80 points

The first area as one approaches from the village end is very impressive. The river bank is really neat and attractive. We wondered why there was no estate sign at this entrance area? The main entrance area has again been worked on and is very attractive. There are some verges in this section that have not been cut but overall this attractive estate has improved since our last visit.

The Grove 80 points

On the sunny day of our visit the estate looked neat and clean with no evidence of litter or graffiti. We felt some of the green areas would have benefited from having the grass clippings removed. Well done to all concerned.

St. Patrick's Park 76 points

This estate was litter and graffiti free on the day of our visit. Many of the house and gardens were maintained to a high standard and the greens are in a good condition though again a few more floral displays would really up-lift the estate.

Hazelhatch Park 81 points

This estate is always well maintained. We did observe some graffiti and we feel to really set this neat estate off, some community floral displays would be needed.

St. Wolstan's Abbey 91 points

This estate really impressed us this summer. On the day of our visit it was immaculate and there was lots of evidence of the residents caring for their estate. We were really blown away by one particular cul de sac area in The Park area. The whole estate is maturing well and combined with the care of residents and the beautiful brick work on the houses and gardens, this is really a gem of an estate. Well done all!

Primrose Gate 90 points

The estate maintenance here is of the very highest standard. This combined with the pride of the residents have ensured that it is always presented at its best and is a place to be proud of.

Large Estates	Gen App	Pres GV/OS	Gard&Prem	AOL	Total
Abbey Farm	22	22	22	23	89
Ballymakealy/Springfield	17	18	18	16	69
Beatty Park	20	20	20	21	81
Castle Village	19	18	20	19	76
Castletown	21	19	19	21	80
Crodaun Forest Park	20	21	19	20	80
Hazelhatch Park	20	21	20	20	81
Oldtown Mill	21	21	20	20	82
Primrose Gate	23	23	22	22	90
St. Raphael's Manor	20	20	20	22	82
St. Patrick's Park	19	19	19	19	76
The Grove	20	19	19	21	80
St. Wolstan's Abbey	24	23	22	22	91
Wolstan Haven	20	20	20	20	80

Gen App: = General Appearance --- Pres GV/OS = Preservation of Grass Verges/ Open

Spaces --- Gard&Prem: = Gardens and Premises --- AOL: = Absence of Litter

Medium Estates Reviews

Ballygoran View/ Court: 86.75

On day of judging the central greens were excellent and many lovely houses and gardens were noted. However, some litter was evident. A broken tree, some dead trees and some grass verges needed attention. Also grass at entrance to Court needed close trimming at wall.

Beatty Grove: 80

Green areas and shrubberies looking very well on day of judging. Also some beautiful gardens noted. Wall at back of estate still needs attention; it was particularly noticeable this year as adjoining wall has been painted. Montbretia at entrance sign, while very attractive, can obliterate the sign.

Callenders Mills: 79.5

In the main this estate continues to be well presented. However, this year there was evidence of weeds at kerbs, some litter and a fence broken on Rd 3. Attention still needs to be paid to the condition of the part of the estate across the rd.

Celbridge Abbey: 89.5

A very impressive presentation this year. Cul-de-Sac mentioned last year has been improved, although one or two grass verges in the Cul-de-Sac not up to the standard of the rest of this charming estate. A worthy winner of the best medium estate – well done.

Dara Court: 79

Well done on restoring the wall. Large green in Cill Dara Close was a master class in how a green should be maintained. Elsewhere, grass verges and parking bays much improved. This estate would benefit greatly from the addition of a shrubbery/flower bed adjacent to the entrance.

Temple Manor: 88

The entrance to the estate was looking magnificent on the day of judging. However, this beautiful estate was marred somewhat by some weeds at kerbs and shrubberies needing attention. The ivy growing out over the boundary wall detracts from the lovely stonework.

Thornhill Gardens: 72

Planting very pleasing around entrance sign and trees and large green well kept. Walls still need attention.

Thornhill Heights: 63

This estate has lost a point this year as there is no sign of general improvement. Litter control was good on day of judging.

Thornhill Meadows: 75.5

Beautiful planting noted at entrance sign and planters filled. However this year there were a lot of weeds at kerbs and several grass verges need attention.

Vanessa Lawns: 65

This is an estate of two halves. Section of estate adjacent to Shackleton Rd, entrance and road leading to this area very well maintained. Well done on community involvement. The remainder of the estate showed some improvement, although attention still needed to weeds at kerbs and edging of central green.

Willowbrook Grove/Park: 58

There was some evidence of improvement this year. Graffiti removed on one wall, but wall needs painting. Some boundary walls need attention, although one wall (adjacent to Beatty Grove) was beautifully presented. Some evidence of work on large green, but cut grass needs to be removed.

Willowbrook Lawns: 53

This estate, unfortunately did not improve this year. There is a great need for community involvement re: untended verges, weeds at kerbs, litter, trimming of trees at bases. Two of the planters were filled; the others should be planted or removed.

Medium Estates	Gen App	Pres GV/OS	Gard&Prem	AOL	Total
Ballygoran View/Court	22	21.75	22.5	20.5	86.75
Beatty Grove	19	17.5	20	23.5	80
Callenders Mill	17.5	21.5	21	19.5	79.5
Celbridge Abbey	22	21.5	22	24	89.5
Dara Court	18.5	19	18	23.5	79
Temple Manor	22	21.5	21	23.5	88
Thornhill Gardens	16.5	15.5	17	23	72
Thornhill Heights	13	11	16	23	63
Thornhill Meadows	16.5	16.5	20	22.5	75.5
Vanessa Lawns	15	13.5	15.5	21	65
Willowbrook Grove/Park	13	10	12.5	22.5	58
Willowbrook Lawns	11.5	9	12.5	20	53

Gen App: = General Appearance --- Pres GV/OS = Preservation of Grass Verges/ Open Spaces --- Gard&Prem: = Gardens and Premises --- AOL: = Absence of Litter

Small Estates Reviews

Ashgrove

75 points

The management of weeds on roadside kerbs are still a problem. Grass verges outside houses need cutting back. Gardens and green spaces were well maintained. Small amount of litter.

Ashleigh Court

57 points

This estate has shown no improvement from last year. The wall on left of entrance could do with some planting. There was no sign of weeds or litter on day of judging.

Chelmsford

76 points

Despite the new development work the estate looked good on the day of judging. There were some weeds along roadsides. Planting at entrance looked well. Green spaces look good.

Chestnut Grove

64 points

Green space at front of estate looked well. Work needs to be done on roadside weeds. Some gardens could do with improvement.

Elm Park

70 points

Shrubbery at the entrance has been cut back but the area still needs to be tidied up. The green space at back of estate is well maintained. Garden shrubs overhanging pathways need to be cut back. Some weeds on roadside kerb.

Grattan Court

86 points

New planting at entrance looked well. The estate looks well presented with green spaces and gardens in good order. However, some grass verges outside houses need attention.

Hawthorn View

72 points

The entrance to this estate needs a lot of attention. Green open space was well maintained. Houses and gardens looked well. A lot of litter was evident on day of judging.

Killadoon Park

86 points

Gardens and green spaces well maintained. No litter or weeds. Estate looks well but roadside trees need to be pruned back.

Larkfield Mews

60 points

The entrance to this small estate needs a lot of maintenance. Roadside weeds are still a problem.

Little Grove

87 points

It's noted that this estate took the judges' comments for 2013 on board by adding 2 flower beds at the entrance. These greatly enhanced the overall look of the estate. Houses and gardens continue to be well maintained.

Oakleigh**69 points**

The Open spaces are well maintained. However, some grass verges and garden walls need attention. Grass cuttings at entrance to the estate let this estate down.

Simmonstown Manor**83 Points**

The general appearance could be improved by adding some flower beds which would give a bit of colour. Otherwise houses & gardens looked well. There was no litter evident on day of judging.

Simmonstown Park**85 points**

Gardens and premises looked very well. The green was well maintained. Watch out roadside weeds!!

Temple Lawns and Primrose Hill**76 points**

There was little change from last year. Weeds continue that need attention. Some trees would benefit from being pruned at the bottom.

Vanessa Close**54 points**

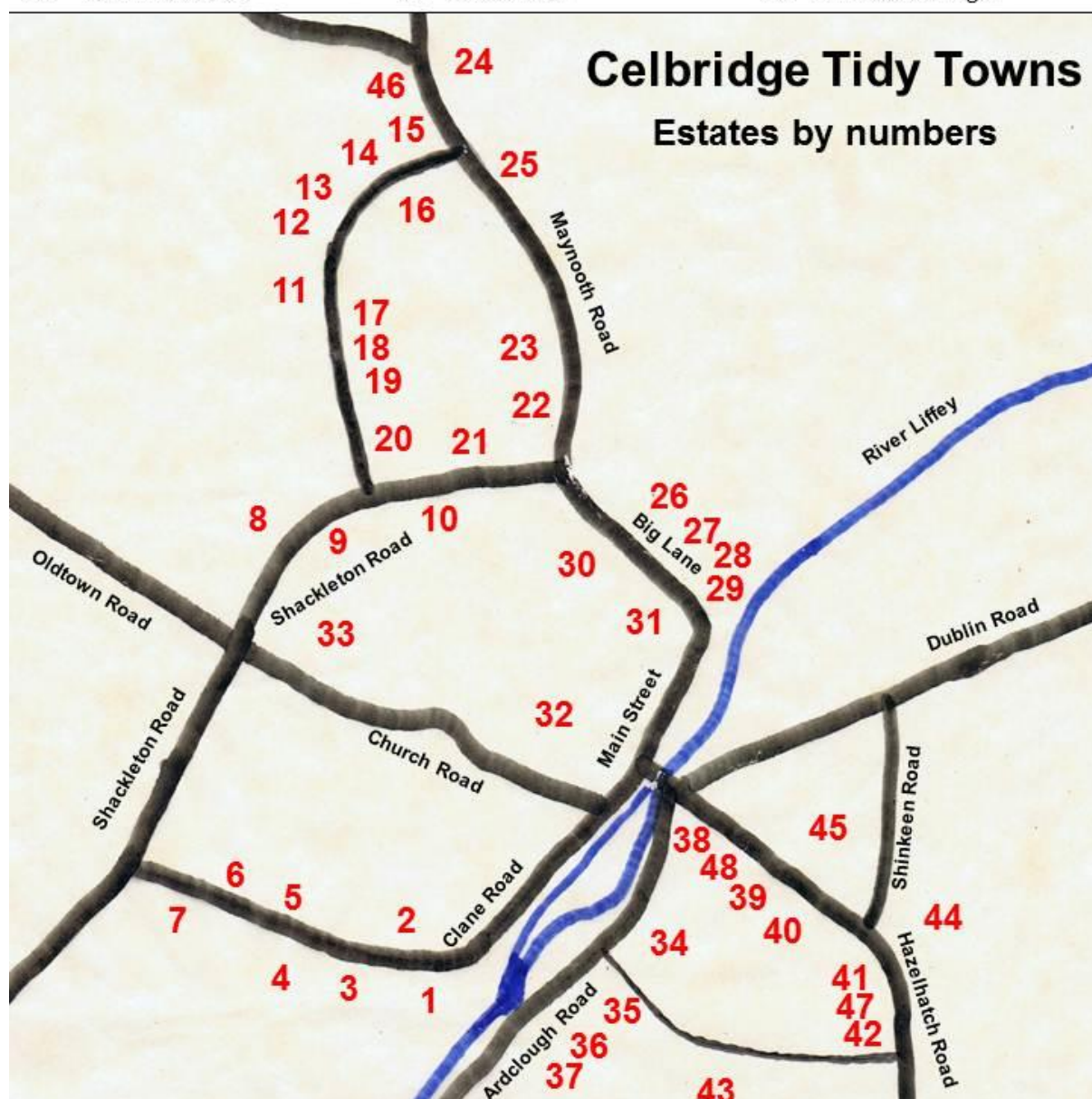
The stream and the adjacent green area continues to be a problem. There was evidence of graffiti and weeds that need to be addressed.

Whitethorn**57 points**

There was no improvement in this estate since last year. Weeds are still a problem.

<u>Estate</u>	<u>Gen App</u>	<u>Pres GV / OS</u>	<u>Gard & Prem</u>	<u>AOL</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ashgrove	19	17	20	19	75
Ashleigh Court	14	13	16	14	57
Chelmsford	17	20	20	19	76
Chestnut Grove	17	13	14	20	64
Elm Park	17	16	18	19	70
Grattan Court	22	20	22	22	86
Hawthorn View	18	16	20	18	72
Killadoon Park	22	20	22	22	86
Larkfield Mews	12	17	16	15	60
Little Grove	22	22	21	22	87
Oakleigh	17	17	18	17	69
Simmonstown Manor	20	20	21	22	83
Simmonstown Park	21	22	22	20	85
Temple Lawns and Primrose Hill	17	17	21	21	76
Vanessa Close	13	12	15	14	54
Whitethorn	13	13	16	15	57

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Abbey Farm | 16. Ashgrove | 31. Elm Park |
| 2. St Raphaels Manor | 17. Willowbrook Lodge | 32. St Patricks Park |
| 3. Celbridge Abbey | 18. Willowbrook Park | 33. Vanessa Close |
| 4. Ballymakealy | 19. Willowbrook Grove | 34. The Grove |
| 5. Oakleigh | 20. Willowbrook Lawns | 35. Simmonstown Manor |
| 6. Grattan Court | 21. Whitethorn | 36. Temple Manor |
| 7. Kiladoon Park | 22. Beatty park | 37. Chelmsford |
| 8. Oldtown Mill | 23. Beatty Grove | 38. The Little Grove |
| 9. Wolstan Haven | 24. Crodaun Forest Park | 39. Primrose Hill |
| 10. Vanessa Lawns | 25. Hawthorn View | 40. Temple Lawns |
| 11. Thornhill Heights | 26. Chesnut Grove | 41. Simmonstown Park |
| 12. Thornhill Gardens | 27. Larkfield Mews | 42. Hazelhatch Park |
| 13. Ballygoran Court/View | 28. Ashleigh Court | 43. Callenders Mill |
| 14. Thornhill Meadows | 29. Castletown Estate | 44. Primrose Gate |
| 15. Castle Village | 30. Dara Court | 45. Wolstan Abbey |
| 46. Thornhill Court | 47. Hazelwood | 48. Primrose Village |



Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: Celbridge Ref: 338
County: Kildare Mark: 289
Category: G Date(s): 11/06/2014

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	37
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36
TOTAL MARK	450	289

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and congratulations on 19 years of participation. Your 12 member committee hold monthly meetings each year and have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. Celbridge also has a number of very interesting festivals throughout the year. You receive support from local businesses and public bodies. The use of Facebook, notice board newspaper etc., are your means of communication as well as the local radio station KFM. The dedicated school liaison officer is commendable and it is great that one of your committee members is 21 years old and engages with youth groups. Many thanks for attaching a very good map of the area and also for the second sketch with numbers placed at various locations. However, it would be helpful to provide or attach a legend for the numbers to assist the adjudicator. It would be easier than going over and back through the reports. Thank you for your five year plan. It would be helpful if the various projects could be set out in table form with information on their state of completion.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Many thanks for attaching the Visitor's Information Leaflet that was launched in May this year. The leaflet provides very useful information but we were surprised that it does not include a town map to show visitors where the facilities (including shops) are located. The heritage sign and information board at the bridge is very interesting. Well maintained buildings in the town centre which caught our attention were McGrath & Company, The Abbey Lounge, The Old Mill and Cunningham's Funeral Home which is an interesting use for a former church. The Holy Faith Convent and Abbey Lodge pub are in good condition. Castletown Inn and Michelangelo's restaurant greatly enhance the town. The church looked well. There were flowers in the circular bed and a welcome seat at the church. The poles and hanging basket displays at the church entrance, Castletown Inn and adjacent to Arthur Guinness statue are of a high standard. The impressive entrance to Castletown House is enhanced with floral displays and the view beyond to Christchurch and the Sequoia tree caught our eye. Veolia premises looked well. The cemetery is well hidden from the road with the stone wall boundary. We admired the boundary trees and some graves were well maintained. A few need attention. GAA looked well. We were delighted to see some houses being painted. Lidl and Aldi were well planted and maintained. Celbridge House had a large car park and an adjacent open space with a row of Whitebeam trees inside the boundary wall. A small amount of litter noted here. St. Raphael's Unit is a peaceful place which is well landscaped. We admired the Cedar tree and the Community Garden. The Grotto is a nice feature in a prominent location and is highlighted at the present time because of the extensive blue flowers. Celbridge Manor Hotel is an impressive building. The statue of Arthur Guinness is impressive and the Arthur's Way is a great way of combining history with environmental schemes. We admired the finger post signage.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tirdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The avenue of trees at Castletown House is a major landmark for Celbridge. You have more avenues in residential estates that reflect that landscape approach. Elsewhere, there are fine specimens of trees to be seen such as the Sequoiadendron in the Christchurch grounds at the entrance to Castletown House. We hope that plans for street tree planting are materialised in the coming years. It is recommended that a single species be used for such planting for uniformity and that exotics such as flowering cherries are not chosen. It is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds and grass and also flower beds to ensure early establishment. In that regard, we noted the remains of flower beds at the base of trees in Castletown residential estate. They look untidy and we suggest they be removed. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake. This is an issue in some residential estates mentioned below. Guidelines for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible as you have done with the excellent plant containers in Main Street. Plant containers at the bridge looked well but some weeds in the pavement takes from the impact. However, empty or poorly planted containers are less effective than no plant container at all and in that regard, baskets at the pedestrian bridge should be maintained or removed. The use of permanent planting is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming and for that reason we admired the delightful pink and purple flower bed at the entrance from Clane Road. It is a good example of the use of perennial plants instead of using annuals. The campanulas look great at the Heritage sign, at the grotto and on Newtown Road. In a small yard adjacent to the NCBI we admired the attractive floral display and we had a glimpse of the well maintained garden to the rear.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Celbridge is surrounded with a wealth of natural and man-made areas. These are a haven for wildlife and we note that you are actively promoting their value and working to enhance them. We hope the bat boxes erected near Castletown House get some occupants. The walking trails are a great way of highlighting their importance and getting people out into the open. We are pleased that you are conscious of the need to have low intensity management of hedge boundaries and to encourage flora such as ivy-leaved toad flax (*Cymbalaria muralis*) on stone walls. We admired the red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*) plants growing in several locations. The suggestion of carrying out a flora survey of walls in Celbridge and the planned self-guided nature trail booklet on the grounds of Castletown House are good ideas. We also note your interest in having Kilwoghan Bog conserved. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. List the plants and animals to be found in your natural environment and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This would be a very useful project for schools.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

This category is becoming more and more important and the available marks are now increased to 50 to highlight the need for communities to address the issues involved in tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. We note your range of activities under this heading and in particular, we commend the following schools on achieving green flag status – Scoil Mochua (Aghards) (4th flag), Scoil na Mainstreach (5th flag), Scoil Naomh Brid (3rd flag), St. Wolstan's Community School (4th flag), Educate Together School (NKETS) (3rd flag), St. Patrick's Primary School (1st flag) and the Primrose Hill National School which have a 5th flag and are now working on their 6th flag. This is an exceptional record for any community and we warmly congratulate the pupils and teachers involved in all of these schools for their hard work and dedication. We are interested in the success of the WEEE project and wonder if you have any information on the volume of material collected. Similarly, it would help if you could quantify the number of bags from the spring clean brought to Ballymount for recycling. Many thanks for the information on the household survey. It would be interesting to repeat that survey in a year or two to see if the community has changed its level of conservation/recycling activity. We look forward to further information on the success of the Derrybeg farm initiative. There are a number of other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. Contact your waste contractors and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Examine the waste pyramid and note the recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. In regard to water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an over use of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We note your system of managing litter control by having designated leaders for each road/area. It is great that you have such support from the community and we are pleased to learn that with your guidance, transition year students help to pick litter on Main Street. The 'crow-proof' designed litter bins in Main Street are successful in preventing birds from causing litter. Well done on your efforts in keeping Celbridge clean and tidy. Minor litter was noted outside the wall of the cemetery. The gate to the Riding School needs attention. At the permanent planting opposite the Grove there were some weeds

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Celbridge has many residential estates and we note your annual best estates competition. We visited a number of the estates and comment as follows: Beatty Grove had a lovely flower bed on the corner. There is scope for additional tree planting here. Houses and gardens are to a high standard, the parking sign is dirty. Crodaun Forest Park estate has good planting with plenty of trees and shrubs with great specimens of oak at the entrance. A small residential estate (part of St. Wolstan's) on the left side of the Hazelhatch Road has an untidy entrance and some weeds. St. Wolstan's estate looked well as did the finished section of Willow Banks and Simmonstown Park. The same comment applies to Temple Manor and Chelmsford which had a fine bedding display at the entrance. We noted the Laurel Hedge feature in Hazelhatch Park. Litter here was minor. The fittingly named Grove estate has plenty of trees; houses and gardens all looked well with no evidence of litter. The tree stakes in Simmonstown Manor need to be checked to prevent damage to tree stems. Castletown estate has some established trees at the entrance from Christchurch. The floral displays in boxes at the base of the trees make little impact and we suggest they be removed. There are no garden boundaries, some dead trees should be removed; we admired the Oxalis at the base of a fence. Vanessa Lawns looks well as does Killadoon Park estate and Oldtown Mill. Wolstan Haven has an impressive entrance. The gardens are well planted and grass verges maintained. We admired the hornbeam tree specimens and suggest that the Laurel hedge be cut (after August) to prevent it from getting too big. St. Raphael's Manor has well established lime trees. The boundary wall here needs screening and we suggest that climbing plants such as ivy might suit. At Grattan Court, we admired the established trees at the entrance. The flower boxes make little impact here and we suggest their removal. If such schemes are desired, then we advise planting into the ground for ease of maintenance. Oakleigh estate had a fine Cedar tree at the entrance, unfortunately grass mowings are being dumped at its base and also nearby. It would be better to develop a composting scheme. Opposite, there was a nice wall and railings.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánai:

The approaches to Celbridge were pleasing. On Donaghcomper Road we admired the stone wall. The poles supporting the town name sign needs painting. Bilingual signage throughout the town caught our attention. The stone wall on Newton Road needs repair - we admired the Valerian and wild roses growing there. Pavement and road surfaces in the centre of town are in good condition and the granite bollards look well.