

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DONARD**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for detailed questionnaire and excellent map which were very clear and helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators look forward to Donard submitting their five year programme. In this you should try to be realistic, yet come up with a few innovative projects which can help improve the urban fabric of the village, together with natural amenities. It is also encouraging to see the continued effort and co-operation between the community and local authority.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is potential for greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds, fish etc. these attract. Why not invite local environmental experts and groups to get involved to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require. School children also have a very practical role to play in this. The road leading up to the church is very attractive in appearance with nice mature trees the moss covered stone walls. Try to perhaps open up the stream area near the school, this could be a good project and would help improve wildlife habitats. Encourage more tree planting programme.

LANDSCAPING

The area by the hand-ball alley is much improved this year with the landscaped area to the front of it by the Marian Shrine, well done and congratulations to those involved. It is nice to see Ogham Stone included, it is a very nice feature as is the new seating. Try to put in a small bit of information on the Ogham Stone itself for visitors to highlight its importance. Another area you might try and consider working on would be the graveyard, perhaps include this in your five year work programme - there is potential for improvement here. Nice planting was noted outside the Post Office, well done in this regard. The Caravan Park was very well maintained, well done. Up by the cemetery, grass had been cut but try to remove the grass cuttings as it takes from the overall appearance. Overall, quite a good effort in this area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The adjudicators would like to congratulate the efforts of the community with the work carried out to the derelict buildings on the main street. This is an excellent example of overcoming the problem with derelict buildings. Could you perhaps consider carrying out similar projects with the other derelict buildings throughout the town, as you did on the Main Street. It is also nice to see a newly refurbished building next to the hand-ball alley. Try to work on the other derelict buildings including these towards Palladius Park; on the approach from the Glen of Imaal and also near Nailors Cottage. With regard to the other buildings the area by the hand-ball alley is a major improvement. The Pinnacle Bar would benefit from painting along the base of the building. At the Catholic Church, in the grounds weeds were evident to the rear of the car parking area, the church itself would have benefited from painting as would its perimeter walls. Do you have any plans to paint the Church of Ireland, which could brighten it up? There is no need for the bunting at Towmeys Bar. At the Post Office there is too much signage in the windows which takes from its appearance, while outside Flynn's Newsagents was litter free. The school grounds were very well presented; they were litter free; the grounds were well maintained but perhaps the wall could be painted. The perimeter wall of the Garda Station could be painted. Overall, continue to work on the derelict buildings and ensure that all premises are freshly painted.

LITTER CONTROL

Overall, a very good performance under this section this year where litter did not seem to be a problem. Try to ensure that gravel or grit along by the kerbside is removed as it takes from the appearance.

TIDINESS

Generally, Donard has a very tidy appearance this year which is no doubt helped by the improvements at the Marian Shrine, the cobble-locking provides a neat appearance together with the work carried out on derelict buildings. Weeds noted in the ground of the Telecom Exchange and the open space next to it take from Donard approaching from this road. Resurfacing is needed leading up towards the caravan park and also where a new wall is being built by the Church of Ireland and the Catholic Church. Well done in this area, just try to be vigilant of weeds near kerbs. Overall, a good performance in this section.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In Pallidius Park, small amounts of litter were evident. Efforts by a Residents Association here would sort out the problem quite quickly. A better effort could have been made with the planting at the Turning Circle and the grass at the rear of the park was also overgrown; some premises could make more of an effort in the presentation. It is only the residents that can really overcome these obstacles, so try to encourage this. In some cases, boundary walls would have benefited from painting. Apart from this, good efforts were noted throughout the village in a number of premises and one area that the adjudicators would particularly like to commend is the farmhouse opposite the graveyard with a magnificent display of roses outside it. Well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approaching Donard from Pallidius Park graffiti was noted on the sign, however a new wall was noted under construction. From the Catholic Church, the approach was very good. Again, a new stone wall is completed on the left hand side and the road just needs to be resurfaced. The appearance further in is very inviting, with the over-hanging trees and moss growing on the walls. Approaching from the Glen of Imaal, this area needs more attention; dumping of earth was noted on the left hand side which was quite bad and the verges on the left hand side had not been cut back but were quite well presented on the right hand side. Approaching Donard from the N81, planting was noted at the Dunlavin sign but was somewhat disappointing. Further in was litter free and was not too bad. Maybe the stream on the right hand side near the school could be worked on. Within the village itself, all the main roads, apart from the requirement of surfacing of roads in some places, were very well presented, neat, tidy and litter free.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall, there is evidence of a co-ordinated effort in the village of Donard this year, well done in this regard. It just shows what co-operation you can in terms of the Marian Shrine, Hand Ball Alley, derelict buildings, control of litter and provision of cobble locking. There have been considerable improvements to Donard over the past few years. The new format of the Tidy Towns Competition includes a number of new features, for example, wildlife and more emphasis on litter control and tidiness. We look forward to your five year work programme being submitted next year and to further visits to the village. Good luck.