

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	14	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	198	198

Donard, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed entry form which was very helpful during the course of adjudication together with a copy of your 5 year plan which is somewhat hard to read. Thank you also for the map, it would be helpful if you could summarise on the map what improvements have taken place to assist the adjudicator who has to visit many towns and villages. It is welcoming to see that you have a large number of participating groups and that you are allocating responsibility to individuals to adopt spots and take on responsibility for key projects. It's obvious that there is a very good community led approach to this competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The School Grounds were well presented with plenty of bins visible. The new Garda Station was also well presented; however, try to paint the boundary wall. There is also a need to reinstate the footpath outside here. One or two premises would benefit from a painting. Twoomys Bar had been newly painted, try to improve the Church of Ireland on the hill. The Catholic Church grounds were well maintained. O'Keefes Country Store had been freshly painted; the new Community Centre was noted; Condrons might be improved. It is good to see the treatment you give to derelict buildings in the village as well.

LANDSCAPING

The adjudicator was extremely impressed with the lovely park area at the main street, which is coming on very well. It has a magnificent variety of planting and the seating provides a restful place to appreciate the flora. Nice planting of flowers were also noted opposite the Credit Union and the grass was neatly cut outside the derelict building. Overall a very good presentation under this category.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A more holistic approach is needed under this heading in terms of the overall handling by the committee of the needs of nature and wildlife including plants, birds and animals. The emphasis is on the conservation and the enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in its area and then determine the appropriate action to conserve and enhance these habitats; the guidelines in the Tidy Towns Manual

offer other suggestions on types of initiatives you might undertake; is there a local wildlife expert or a member of the community with experience in this area that your committee can draw upon? Try to let the adjudicator know of developments that have taken place in this regard. The adjudicator noted your comments in relation to the organic farm.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally, litter control was quite good; outbreaks of litter were quite bad outside Twoomeys Bar; sprinklings were also noted at the gateway to the Church and around the well area on the road leading up towards the Churches. Local authorities are now required to prepare Litter Management Plans every 3 years so consult with your local authority to see what their plans are for Donard. Also, new litter laws requires owners of premises to maintain the premises outside; try to ensure that this is carried through.

TIDINESS

Generally there is a tidy appearance particularly on the main street and around the landscaped park area. Try to watch gateways where litter and weeds can collect and take from the appearance. Also try to sweep the road leading up to Churches where there is dead vegetation and debris.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential estate has no name plate and grass needed to be cut at time of adjudication. Try to paint fencing in some of the houses; also weeds along the kerbs within the estate take from the appearance of tidiness; re-surfacing is needed in parts. Also parking on the green was not appropriate. Some fencing at the entrance on one side of the park was broken and needs to be tackled. Long grass was also noted at the entrance; try to work on this. Other residential premises were by and large very well maintained and credit is due to these who have maintained freshly painted premises.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from the N11 at the Donard sign was well presented, however the gravel by the sides of the road tends to take from the appearance; the new foot path was noted on the right hand side. Approaching from the west towards Twoomeys Bar could be better presented, particularly at the Donard sign, with a rough cut on the left hand side. Long grass was noted at the base of a wall on the right hand side. Try to minimise use of weed killers near the 30 mile hour sign, this area could be much better presented. Sprinklings of litter were also noted; there is room for improvement in this area for next year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very good community effort is evident in the village of Donard; it is very welcoming to visitors. You have made progress in the competition over a number of years, for example, cobble locking etc. Try to encourage residents in the estate to take on greater responsibility for the maintenance of the open spaces. Good luck for next year.