

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>212</b>

## **Donard, County Wicklow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

Donard is a very compact village with an unique pattern of roadways converging to form the village centre. The five-year plan presented is very comprehensive and has a good practical base. Realistic objectives have been set and progress is being made on these objectives. The cooperation of many participating groups is helpful as tidy towns committees need as much local support as possible.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The buildings at the centre of the village are nicely positioned around the green giving a very good village focus. The business premises are well treated and interesting colour schemes have been used. Great credit is due to the work of dealing with the derelict buildings at the start of Barrack Street. The painting, use of hanging baskets and containers helps greatly. The attractive blue and gray painted colour scheme looks particularly well. It would be nice to try to retain the original doors and windows of the older buildings in the village centre. The health centre, school, and churches look well. The paintwork on the Catholic church will need to be attended to soon as staining is occurring on the walls. The wall to the road front of the Garda station also needs attention. The new footpaths were noted. The stone walls of the village and surrounds are especially attractive, the stone wall opposite the school being a good example. The revealing of the old Heighington burial ground ruins will form an interesting project.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The reseeding and replanting of the village green is a very nice piece of landscaping. The birch trees, shrubs flowers and new grass make this a very pleasant feature at the village centre. The lupins were in full bloom and the seat and rock with a touch of moss on the top looked well. The other small pieces of landscape at the centre were noted. One has an amount of horsetail weed predominating. The birch trees to the front of the Health Centre look very well and containerised plants are well used to brighten up the village. The cottage garden opposite the Heighington Burial ground is delightful with lovely flowers flowing from the garden. The Caravan Park also adds to the landscape with the well-tended grassed areas and tree plantings. The garden of the school contributes well under this heading. Mature ash, beech, and sycamore trees in the surrounding countryside are very attractive and these come right into the village. Renewal planting should be done where appropriate as the people who planted these trees could never have hoped to see them to maturity and we too, should contribute to future generations in a similar way.

There is a wonderful very long stand of mature beech trees on the Knocranarrigan Road.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The surrounding countryside offers many opportunities for wild life appreciation and projects to help awareness of such, would be worthwhile. Provision of local information and work with schools is always a good starting point. The stone walls are a rich source of natural interest and it is wise to be careful about disturbing habitats in such places.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There is a good level of litter control in the village. Some litter was noted on the street side and the fact that some bins were full did not help the situation. The litters pickers work is very valuable and this is the only way that results will be achieved.

### **TIDINESS**

There is a good general level of tidiness in the village, however, litter and derelict buildings do not help in this regard. For instance, inside the cemetery wall there is a large heap of dumped grass cuttings and other materials which are very unwelcome in that situation particularly when there is a "no dumping" sign within a few metres. The state of the road surfaces are also unhelpful.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The small housing estate is attractive at St. Paladus Park and was well tended. Individual houses along the roads contribute well to the village. The street side residences at the village centre were looking well cared for and they form a pleasant cosy atmosphere at this point.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The road surfaces throughout the village are in a seriously poor condition. Hopefully the new roads programme will soon be implemented. The approach roads with beautiful walls, trees and grass verges make lovely entrances to the village and are intact.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village of Donard is attractively tucked into the countryside amid mature trees and natural stone walls. The work of the tidy towns committee in achieving the results to date deserves credit. The efforts at getting improvements which are outside the control of the committee such as road surfaces are commendable. Villages are fortunate to have such people who are willing to make voluntary efforts to improve the situation.