

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donabate**

Ref: **551**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **194**

Category: **E**

Date: **18/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	36
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	25	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	23	20
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	194	180

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank for your completed application form and comprehensive back up materials which were of great assistance on the day of adjudication. Your committee is to be congratulated for the outstanding effort that has been put into this year's competition. Your involvement of schoolchildren in the Schools Wildlife Programme is a wonderful idea and involves practical exercises for the children and will encourage a development and understanding of wildlife in the environment - congratulations on all your efforts in this regard. It is wonderful to see the work of your committee and the support and enthusiasm they have for the enhancement and improvement of your village. you should also be congratulated on your work in conjunction with Fingal County Council, local businesses, Rural Dublin LEADER - keep up the good work!

The Built Environment:

Your committee's programme of development has been noted; the new railway bridge looked extremely well and we welcome the safer footpaths once they are in place. Several of Donabate's buildings looked very well on the day of adjudication, namely the Credit Union, the two churches, Keeling's Pub, the Off License (its stone facing looked extremely well). The Shopping Centre looked very well, however Smyths pub could do with fresh paint job to make it look a little more tidy. It is noted that there is alot of building going on in Donabate presently and we see there a future plans for 26,000 new dwellings in your locality. This type of rapid progress could make your Programme for Development very difficult and this is recognised by the adjudicator. It is a very important part

of the Committee's work to liaise with Fingal County Council and examine the new planning proposals and see how they will affect the Tidy Town committee's own proposals. The Martello Tower also looked like more could be done with it to enhance the overall appearance of your locality.

Landscaping:

The landscaping throughout Donabate is quite impressive and you are to be commended for your wonderful idea of having an outdoor classroom in the grounds of St Patrick's National School. The tree planting programme is also a wonderful idea and is a good way of getting children interested in their local environment. Your "Garden of Angels" proposal is also a fantastic idea which involves all elements of the community and outside agencies and we look forward to the proposal coming to fruition. The potted plants and rose bushes in the parish church were also a very welcome sight. Further to the adjudicator's comments last year we are delighted to see that a tree planting programme in the school was undertaken during February - well done. The selection of trees from six different environments and their allocation to the school children's class is a wonderful idea. It is also wonderful to see the girls' school planting 500 daffodil bulbs again this is a wonderful initiative.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Donabate has a wonderful variety of wildlife and natural amenities in its surroundings. The two beaches provide a wonderful facility for your residents and your participation in the Clean Coast Project run by Fingal County Council is most welcome. The placement of the nest boxes for birds by the girls and boys national schools is a wonderful idea and gives children a reason to take an interest in wildlife and their local community.

Keep up the good work!

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication, Donabate, Portrane and its surrounding areas were relatively litter free. Your tidy towns committee and the local community is to be congratulated for its efforts in this area.

Tidiness:

Donabate and Portrane were both very tidy on the day of adjudication of particular note was the entrance into Donabate from the Motorway side, there were some minor incidence of weed control but they were minor and all the estates and individual residences throughout the town were very highly presented. There were a few residences around the centre of Donabate which had a few weeds in evidence. The Beaverstown Road was also a little overgrown. the majority of residential areas were very nicely kept and very tidy. The entrance to Newbridge House looked quite impressive on the approach road to Donabate.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas in Donabate and Portrane, and in particular their gardens are outstanding. A willingness to improve the total residential environment, by residents themselves, should be encouraged by the Tidy Towns Committee. The creation of a competition for residential areas would be an essential part of this encouragement. Also it is suggested that the Committee should create a gardens Competition for individual gardens and especially new gardens. Again, this also could be used to further entice more potential members to join the Tidy Towns Committee. The large spaces within many of the residential areas are very well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Following on from last year's report, we are delighted to see that the approach road into Donabate

was well cut back. The road on the way to Balcarrick Golf Club was a bit overgrown on the day of adjudication as well as the area to the side of the Waterside Hotel; there was a steel barrel on the side of the road which looked untidy and detracted from your village's otherwise pleasant appearance.

General Impression:

Donabate is a very nice village and it is important that you concentrate your efforts and plans in future in order to retain its uniqueness, while at the same time coming up with systems to integrate new developments and residents into the existing neighbourhood. Your committee have worked very hard and have had some wonderful ideas put into action over the last year - congratulations.