

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Douglas**

Ref: **168**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **205**

Category: **F**

Date: **15/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	199

Overall Developmental Approach:

This is a busy thriving village on the verge of the city. Despite the many businesses which are flourishing in the vicinity, there is still an atmosphere of a local community in the area. The Tidy Towns Committee is obviously contributing to this by the large programme of work being undertaken for the community. Commercial activity is obviously growing in the area and of course this in turn brings its own problems like increase in traffic etc. and on local services. The committee should continue with its work programme and seek any further help possible from the Local Authority.

The Built Environment:

The new shopping centres are large and dominate many other building in the area but that in itself gives the blend of the old and the new. The standard of buildings generally in the area is good - St. Columba's School is very nicely presented. Also St. Luke's School is well maintained. The Canon Packham Hall is excellently presented. Also the Douglas Scout Hall - a former school - is well maintained and tastefully presented. The Legion of Mary Hall is a simple building but beautifully maintained and presented. Both the Catholic Church of St. Columba and the Church of Ireland Church of St. Luke's are beautiful buildings and are excellently maintained. Apart from the major shopping centres there is a variety of commercial premises in the vicinity and the standard generally is good. The Garda Station premises is satisfactorily maintained as were the premises of Douglas Credit Union.

Landscaping:

A considerable amount of planting has been done through the area, much of it quite colourful. The flower displays at the roundabouts give a lot of colour in these areas. The landscaping work on the Carrigaline road looks well. Tree planting has been carried out in a corner green area near the entrance to Douglas Court Shopping Centre but this area is quite neglected with quite high grass growth, almost as high as the trees in some instances and this should be attended to. Landscaping in the park is excellent. Flowers planted at the Legion of Mary Hall are particularly attentive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The estuary and the mature woodlands provide valuable source of habitat for a variation of wildlife species. From an environmental point of view, these are valuable assets for an urban community. The Douglas Community Park is a magnificent asset for the entire community. Within the park there is a fine Children's Play area and this is obviously well maintained. The park furniture, seating etc. was very well maintained. The main entrance to the Park is impressive and it is suggested that the grass area here needs to be trimmed on a more regular basis.

Litter Control:

The efforts being made to control litter are noted. The local street sweeps will help considerably and the Keep Douglas Clean sign will help to create an awareness amongst the community. The problem of litter is a continuous one and in a busy centre like Douglas there has to be a continuous campaign, firstly to create an awareness and then to control the problem. It would be a good idea if possible to involve the schools in these efforts. There was some litter on the streets in West Douglas and also litter in the vicinity of the Bring Bank in the Community Park. Otherwise the litter situation seemed to be satisfactory.

Tidiness:

There was generally a reasonably good level of tidiness throughout the area. However there needs to be a continuous vigilance to maintain and improve on this situation. Generally areas in the vicinity of business premises and the shopping centres were quite good.

Residential Areas:

There is a variation of residential premises in the area and the standard generally is good. In areas like Pembroke Mews, a small quiet area, the houses were nicely presented. Also the residential accommodation at Douglas Lawn looked well. Here houses and gardens were well cared for and the area overall is a very pleasant one. There is also some new apartment accommodation developed in the area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads, roundabouts etc. in the area are good. The approach road from Rochestown is very well maintained. Also the road from Cork is satisfactory. Likewise the approach road from Carrigaline is well maintained. This latter road is particularly pleasant with a considerable amount of tree planting, shrubbery etc. and large well maintained green areas. Footpaths generally are in good condition, some of which have recently been repaired. Some traffic signs in the area are in need of cleaning or repainting. In West Douglas some street surfaces are particularly bad and in need of attention. The cemetery was very well maintained.

General Impression:

As indicated this is a vibrant commercial and residential area. The Tidy Towns Committee has a very important role to play in the community because the likelihood is that the business aspect component will continue to grow. It is important therefore that a balance is maintained between that and community life in the area. There is a coordination in your efforts and the committee should continue to gain whatever support possible through the respective Local Authorities.

Second Round Adjudication: