

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donabate**

Ref: **670**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **213**

Category: **E**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	28	25
Landscaping	40	28	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	17
Litter Control	40	26	23
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	20
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	194

Overall Developmental Approach:

Donabate / Portrane is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and supporting material of photographs, plans etc., which facilitated adjudication. No map was provided however which places you at a disadvantage as projects should be clearly marked on a map. The one in the pack was inappropriate for Tidy Towns purposes. It is good to note from your application form that you have the support of the local community and that you work in cooperation with statutory bodies such as Rural Dublin LEADER, Fingal County Council, Birdwatch Ireland, Fingal Hedgerow Society and others. This type of multi pronged approach is a strong requirement for success in the Tidy Towns Competition. It is also good to note the high level of awareness of what is unique to Donabate / Portrane and the activities of the committee to enhance and promote this uniqueness. We wish you every success in maintaining a strong community spirit in the face of unprecedented growth of your two villages and the problem of dealing with anti-social behaviour. We agree with you that the way to overcome these problems is to strengthen the sense of community and by taking on projects which are socially inclusive. Thank you for a fine application and performance.

The Built Environment:

Smyths has some fine traditional features which hopefully will be retained upon refurbishment. The Post Office and adjacent buildings are attractively presented and the church looked magnificent in

the setting of its grounds. The Brook and adjacent premises are attractive old stone buildings and appropriately presented. The Donabate and Portrane Community Club is a fine development and provides an important facility for your growing population, however the grassed areas here now need to be landscaped. The Donabate and District Credit Union premises look great also and it was a pleasure to note its sash windows (Ballisk House). Well done on your village renewal status which has resulted in important improvements to the built environment in recent times.

Landscaping:

Congratulations on the butterfly bed in the girls school and the big bee bed in the boys school. Both are wonderful initiatives and are both educational and fun for the children involved. The majority of green open spaces in Portrane were being well maintained but some in Donabate less so. The car park to the Waterside Hotel in Donabate presents an ideal opportunity for landscaping. This hotel has a high profile and should be better presented in respect of its curtilage area. The graveyard in Donabate might be landscaped also and landscaping is suggested for the junction of the Beaverstown Road and the beach road. The wire and post fencing to a site on the Beaverstown Road could be planted with hedgerow. Congratulations on the Turvey Park project, to have planted 8,500 community trees this year over three separate days involving the entire community is an amazing feat and an example all to follow. These will of course provide a legacy for future generations as we enjoy the legacy of past generations, in particular stands of mature trees in the health board premises at Portrane.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Beaches at both venues were being enjoyed by many people on adjudication day and despite the large numbers of visitors both beaches were very clean. Well done on community clean ups of both amenities earlier on this year. Your information evening in the spring on becoming a coast care community is an excellent initiative and we look forward to future developments in this respect. The schools wildlife projects have been noted together with the media interest in your activities. Your involvement with the Fingal Biodiversity Day is excellent.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good in both centres with a few minor exceptions. The most important of these was the car park of the Waterside Hotel which was quite littered and the Pharmacy car park in Donabate. Again you are to be congratulated on your participation on the Race Against Waste initiative. Your recycling points in both areas are being well used however some dumping was noted at the bottle bank in Portrane. Well done on the twice weekly litter free zone pick ups by school children. We are indebted to them.

Tidiness:

The road to the beach and the golf club was found to be overgrown, weedy and littered on adjudication day and excessive weed growth to the low stone wall along the roadside of the beach was noted in Portrane. Sprayed weeds which had not been removed was a feature of kerbs in both villages. Reference has already been made to your excellent participation in various of litter control and tidiness initiatives and these stand to you in the assessment under this heading.

Residential Areas:

Work in progress on a number of residential developments were noted at the time of adjudication and allowances have been made for associated untidiness; no doubt all will be finished to a high standard. Mature estates in both villages look really well. The Priory was admired, particularly in respect of its flower displays as its entrance. We note your work in conjunction with Fingal County Council's 2005 - 2011 Development Plan and your links with a variety of newly set up residents associations to achieve visual upgrades and neighbourhood watch activities. The goal under this

heading will be to bring all residents to the point where they will participate in improving their own estates and also lend some help to the Tidy Towns effort for the villages.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadside verges to all approach roads were overgrown with minor exceptions and all were weedy. Marks gained under this heading have been for the new bridge, new road and footpath surfaces. The stretch of old stone wall from along the entrance to Donabate along the motorway should be revealed at entrances and highlighted as a feature of this approach to the village. Eventually perhaps this stone wall can be refurbished in an appropriate manner. Street furniture was generally well presented and attractive lampstandards with no overhead service cables in the centre of Donabate is good. The public art input is a nice touch.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Donabate and Portrane was one of pleasant destinations with much to offer both residents and visitors for recreational amenity. A lot has been achieved for both destinations over the last few years, the challenge for the future now will be to maintain and improve on existing standards.