

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donabate** Ref: **25**
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **234**
Category: **E** Date(s): **10/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	234

Overall Development Approach:

Donabate is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and support materials which were useful in the adjudication process, your map was helpful also. Well done on all of the posters regarding Tidy Towns activities. It is good to note your use of new technology to circulate various bodies and share information on events and initiatives together with school events. Perhaps you could let us have details of your three year work programme with next year's submission.

The Built Environment:

Congratulations on your role as a catalyst to reinstate works on the semi-derelict building sites on the Main Street, this is a fine achievement and one which will pay dividends when complete. Good luck with your plans for 2008 regarding work between the Educate Together School and the Community Centre. The latter building has been considered for the Architectural Award. Shop fronts which were admired include Keeling's Pub and Chung's Chinese Restaurant together with the Off License/Bunch of Grapes. The golf club is an attractive building also. Sadly Smith's is still in need of painting together with sections of the Post Office. The Credit Union looked well.

Landscaping:

Flower displays together with permanent landscaping do much to enhance the appearance of Donabate village and all who participated are to be thanked. 'The Hand' looks really well now which is important as it is a focal point on leaving Donabate. Congratulations also on the restoration of the Donabate sign and the landscaped area beside the petrol station. In future landscaping plans chose species of plants which are native as these are supportive of wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the closure of the beach to motor vehicles, this will enhance its amenity value for people and of course have an impact on wildlife also. At the time of adjudication the beach was very clean with no litter or unsightly elements. We note with interest the proposed wildlife surveys involving the local schools and proposed Walking Trail leaflet and look forward to getting information on these in due course. Both should play a significant part in raising awareness of wildlife to the community and indeed to visitors.

Litter Control:

Well done on your participation in the National Spring Clean . The thirty large sacks of rubbish and recyclables are a fine achievement. Your weekly litter patrols and rotas play an important part in the litter free aspect of Donabate. Your links with the school on litter awareness is valuable also and we note with interest the certificates that are made available to school children for participating in the National Spring Clean.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to note that of the thirty large sacks collected on the National Spring Clean day that twenty two were segregated into those suitable for recycling and disposed of at the recycling facility. Your reminder to householders of the recycling facility locations is appropriate. Perhaps at some stage in the future you might consider conducting a waste audit with a view to identifying strategies for the minimisation of waste produced.

Tidiness:

Your work on the removal of graffiti throughout the village is acknowledged and it was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect of Donabate. Well done on the survey of signs and their posts which has brought about the refurbishment of twelve of these by Fingal County Council, this is the type of initiative which is the backbone of Tidy Towns effort.

Residential Areas:

We look forward to the results of your 'Best Kept Residential Garden Award'; this should ensure that residential areas are always presented at their best. Estates which were admired include The Priory, Somerton, Willowbrooke, all were beautifully landscaped and their green open spaces are being neatly maintained. A few boundary walls to residential properties along the road are in need of refurbishment and some roadside areas to boundary walls together with the walls themselves on the road to the Strand are in need of attention also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The bridge is an excellent feature of the townscape however the pedestrian handrail could be refurbished. Attractive lamp standards are a feature of the town centre. At the time of adjudication the car park at the beach was a work in progress. Roadside verges are neatly presented. Hopefully the proposed traffic calming measures will achieve their aims.

General Impression:

Congratulations on your role in having work continued which has been delayed for two years within the village centre. We look forward to the completion of these and their (hopefully) positive visual impact on the village centre. Donabate is a most attractive village with a growing population and seems capable of assimilating this growth.