

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donohill** Ref: **638**
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **206**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2007**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 32 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 24 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 31 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 5 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 23 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 206 |

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your application form and entry to the competition. Well done on the production of your five year plan 2007 – 2012, which was very helpful to the adjudicator and gives a clear focus to the committee. The Donohill committee are to be congratulated in engaging the help of other agencies. It is noted that the net is widening in relation to applications for development assistance and no doubt this approach will pay dividends in time. Donohill is a particularly attractive cross roads village which still retains its traditional character, surrounded by a number of very interesting archaeological features in the hinterland.

The Built Environment:

The area of Crosses Pub and Heffernan's Shop is particularly attractive. The vista of this area as viewed from the Tipperary road is framed by some very attractive mature trees. The importance of these trees cannot be overstated and they should be listed for preservation. The private residence opposite Crosses Pub with its whitewashed walls and galvanised iron roof is in the finest Irish vernacular tradition and is a gem. It would be nice if the area enclosed by these three buildings could have an attractive centrepiece, perhaps a piece of sculpture. The Church had a neatly maintained lawn and some attractive flower displays complimented by the well planted and well maintained flower boxes. The adjoining cottage was admired. It is noted that the extension to the school is now completed and the school itself is nicely presented and brightly painted. The message board on litter in the school yard is simple yet very effective.

Landscaping:

The landscaping programme outlined by the committee is impressive and well thought out and your hedgerow programme in relation to the Heritage Council's guidelines was noted. Tree planting beyond the school is beginning to mature and looks well, together with the attractive shrubbery beds in this area. The neat

hedgerow opposite, extending from the nearby farm as far as the adjacent cottage, if extended to the school bridge would be an immediate enhancement to this area. The existing mature trees on this hedgerow were noted. It is to be hoped that the new, centrally located housing scheme, when completed, will be well landscaped and planted. The colourful flower displays in the village centre were admired and your engagement with local businesses and residences is to be commended. The parking area in the village centre with its attractive planted stone boxes and the accompanying information boards is a highlight.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plan outlining your programme on wildlife and natural amenities for the coming years is impressive. There are a number of areas, such as the Tipperary road, where this venture should be extremely successful. We wish you well with this project.

Litter Control:

Congratulations to the committee on your litter cleaning programme. Your efforts are certainly having a good effect and the village was litter free on the day except for one small area on the Tipperary road.

Waste Minimisation:

Donohill is fortunate to have such a comprehensive waste recycling facility close by the village. The facility was clean and tidy and well presented on the day of adjudication. Your ongoing programme is noted and we wish you well with this venture. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives in the Race Against Waste booklet will be adopted in the future.

Tidiness:

The overall impression of the village centre was one of tidiness. However, it was disappointing to see the new picnic areas, below the historic burial ground and St James Well, overgrown and looking somewhat unkempt. The pathway to St James Well had some high nettles and thistles covering half the surface area of the pathway. As Donohill contained some really important and interesting historic sites, attention should be focused on this aspect. The Motte and the elevated cemetery opposite looked spectacular.

Residential Areas:

Donohill has some nicely presented existing private residences. The new housing scheme is under construction at present and these well-located houses will further enhance the village core. As previously mentioned this scheme, with its attractive stone walls, will have a major impact if successfully landscaped and planted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Cappaghwhite approach road looked well and the adjoining residences were well presented. However, the Anacarty road between the school and the village, was in need of verge cutting. The Tipperary entrance road is maturing very well and the widened grass margin was well maintained and the young trees here are beginning to make a favourable visual impression.

General Impression:

Donohill has a unique charm all of its own and the presentation of its core buildings give it a unique character. It is hoped that the new developments will enhance this atmosphere.