

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Doneraile** Ref: **942**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **212**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>212</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to the Doneraile Community for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2008. Thank you for your submission and for your map. There may be some misunderstanding about the nature of the map which you are requested to enclose. A hand drawn sketch of the town which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition and highlights your work for the past year is a great help to the adjudicator. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 year plan. If you do not have one the exercise of compiling such a plan would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your various projects. As all projects need funding you would set down in your plan how you propose to fund these various projects. As well as that there are marks involved! As you have just a committee of six it is important that you do not overstretch yourselves by overloading yourselves with work. Ensure that your immediate plans are defined and attainable. Let the more long term plans be more aspirational. As a community group you will have had experience in dealing with the various bodies mentioned in your submission. You will need to engage regularly with these bodies in order to progress your plans. Well done to the school in attaining Green Flag Status. The local schools can be a valuable resource for TidyTowns committees in carrying out surveys and assisting with clean-ups so develop a relationship with the schools. Doneraile is a beautiful town and many challenges face you. We look forward to the fruits of your labour.

### **The Built Environment:**

Doneraile is a changing town and this transition is reflected in its buildings. On the one hand there are the proud heritage buildings, many of which still stand proudly. There are the buildings which were once thriving businesses but are now homes only but their big display windows create that small town character. There are buildings that are unoccupied for now and their fronts are deteriorating. Then, inevitably, there are some derelict buildings also. In some cases derelict sites are prone to dumping which spoils the picture. There is a

most delightful streetscape from the top of the street with the different shop fronts and the multitude of colours. A feature of the built environment of Doneraile is the beautiful old, heritage stone walls which for the most part are in good repair. The stately entrance to the demesne is the highlight of the visit. Many of the buildings catch the eye for instance the Credit Union building and the O Donnabháin shop front. The Church of Ireland and cemetery add to the interest. Schools in general look well. The Community Centre looks a bit jaded. The street lamps complete the picture.

### **Landscaping:**

The Lord and previous generations have bequeathed exceptional landscaping on the present generation. You have added to this master plan. Main street is a long street. Some residences and business are making great efforts to bring colour to their fronts with floral displays. A coordinated effort would produce an overall dash to the street. The area around the bridge has great potential.

There are a few areas where landscaping has been carried out in the past but this work needs a helping hand now. An example of this is at the Grotto. But other sites light up their surroundings, for instance the landscaping and the railing at the Nagle Rice school.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Doneraile Demesne: What a treasure for the people. Its easy access and its location in the town centre make it a haven for exercise conscious townspeople. The adjudicator encountered two three-arched bridges and one fabulous wooden bridge, two waterfalls creating a constant sound of gushing water, wonderful wooded areas and fine specimen trees, a manor house which though closed seemed to be benefiting from renovation work and, of course, conversing birdlife. A haven. Maybe you could encourage some teachers to survey the wildlife in the park and the results could be displayed. Doneraile must be a wildlife haven. Your submission mentions many species of animal. Again a wildlife board describing those animals would add a further dimension to a visit to the park. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition. When planning your landscaping projects keep in mind the welfare of birds and bees.

### **Litter Control:**

There appears to be plenty of litter bins about the town and they are being used. Yet there is quite an amount of litter evident. This is a section in which you need to plan how to eradicate litter. It could help you to become involved with some of the local litter challenges. You need the consistent support of local agencies such as Fás. You may need to run 'Litter Awareness' projects in the town. Certainly your committee cannot be complacent about this problem. Dumping in derelict sites is also a problem.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Firstly well done to the school on its Green Flag Status. Well done on segregating the waste gathered at clean-ups. You mention that you are working with local business and agencies. Let us know next time what the nature of this work is and how this work is progressing. If you have a Bring Bank mark it on the map. If you do not have one you might get working on providing one. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you.

### **Tidiness:**

As Doneraile is a busy town there is need for effective traffic management. The traffic calming measures that have been set up appear to be working well for you. Parking measures also seem effective. Well done on getting rid of so many of your cables. Ongoing maintenance could be improved. Many signs in town need a wash and in some cases a fresh coat of paint. Weeds on road verges detract from their surroundings. If poles are not in use you should have them removed by the relevant authority.

### **Residential Areas:**

It is clear that house owners are proud of their dwellings. In general houses are proudly presented, are well maintained, and front gardens bring colour and character to the town. It is a pity that many estates do not have a name plate. This may be a project for your committee. Doneraile possesses many older estates and residential areas which are more challenging to maintain but these areas combine well with the newer houses. For instance Canon Sheehan place would benefit from landscaping to give it a lift. The estate on the Mallow Road, maybe from the 1930's gives a heritage feel to the town. Old terraced housing also contributes to this heritage feeling.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

A town is introduced to the traveller first through its approach roads. The maintenance, housing, hedges, walls give the traveller an idea of what may be awaiting them in the town. Doneraile proclaims itself proudly

with its sign: 'A Historic and Literary Heritage'. A proud boast that fills the unsuspecting visitor with anticipation. A great start to the visit. The historic walls that steer one to town add to the anticipation. The split level walls add further to the belief that this place is special. On the Mallow road there is a sweep into town that hides the town until one is upon it. Footpaths are provided. Anything that interferes with this idyllic picture is a torment. Weeds are a pity. Maintenance of the verges, in general, enhance the surroundings. Road surfaces in places need renewal. Where the grass verge is very wide you might consider landscaping that would promote wildlife rather than cutting the entire width.

**General Impression:**

A most enjoyable visit to a town that will benefit from prioritising the tidy town aspect of its development. Doneraile has all of the required elements and amenities that define a pleasant place to live in and to visit. Exploitation of those advantages would improve the quality of town life. The adjudicator would love to find more traces of the Literary Heritage promised on arrival.