

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donard** Ref: **262**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **243**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	243

Overall Development Approach:

Donard Tidy Towns Association is thanked for a completed entry form (in beautiful handwriting) and an excellent map. The Five Year Plan 2007-2011 makes interesting reading and you are commended on your approaching of concentrating on achievable goals rather than on the issues that are beyond the realm of the committee. Often committees can get bogged down with the things they cannot do rather than focussing on the things they can. Your committee of twelve is clearly busy forging working relationships with Palladius Park Residence Association, Wicklow County Council, Fás and Donard Glen Equestrian Centre. Involvement with the local school is critical as you progress in the competition and it is refreshing to note that you liaise with the Principal and Resource Teacher on a regular basis.

The Built Environment:

The stone walls on the Holywood approach were admired. Twomey's was freshly painted in vibrant colours. The Roman Catholic Church looked immaculate with a tasteful colour scheme of cream and red. The repainting and repair of doors and windows at the former cottages would provide a major facelift to this area and inspiration should be taken from the two that are presented to a very high standard. Moynihans, The Credit Union and Health Centre were tidily presented. The Moat Farm was admired for its neat presentation. The school and grounds were fresh in appearance however the outer railing was quite chipped. The Garda Station looked wonderful and the cleanly presented Michael Dwyer Trail signage was noted.

Landscaping:

Most of the grass verges on the Holywood were neatly cut back. The planter at the village sign had not yet been replenished but it was noted that there had been an abundant daffodil a couple of months earlier. Permanent planting was admired at Country Store and across the road. Hanging baskets were admired at the derelict buildings and this helps integrate them into the streetscape. The central garden as ever is well

maintained. The landscaped entrance to Palladius Park is indeed a sight to behold and the terracotta frog planters were most welcoming! The new planter at the water pump looked well however, it had not been planted by the day of adjudication

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are commended for the continuation of your tree planting programme. The adjudicator can vouch for the presence of bees in Donard as a huge one was trapped in her car only to be discovered a number of miles down the road, hopefully it made its way home safely! You are commended on the careful selection of species conducive to bee keeping. Similarly, your work in relation to the old graveyard and stream is commended.

Litter Control:

The level of litter control was quite good on the day of adjudication however there were some problem areas. There was a scattering of litter throughout Palladius Park, at the bench at the ball alley and a few pieces were notes at the entrance to the cemetery. The damaged bin here should be repaired or replaced.

Waste Minimisation:

It was good to note that the composter in the new graveyard was almost full on the day of adjudication. Similarly the composter was noted in the old graveyard but was more difficult to access. The school is congratulated on their Green Flag status.

Tidiness:

Stained boundary walls of private properties detract from the overall appearance of Donard. The gates and railings at the Old Graveyard require a fresh coat of paint. Directional signage should be cleaned regularly as it is often the first place a visitor looks! Weed growth at the derelict terraced row gives an untidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

Tigh Lissadel looked extremely well and colourful window boxes were admired, the adjoining property too looked well. The whitewashed terraced row provide a wonderful backdrop to the central garden. Most of the houses in Palladius Park were admired for their fresh appearance but the presentation of boundary walls was disappointing in places. The cottage opposite Moat Farm looked quaint and was freshly painted. The front garden too was charming. There is a considerable amount of renovation work underway in Donard and this is great to see. New builds too will undoubtedly add to the urban fabric of the village in the years to come.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Paths are cleanly presented and are weed free and this is commendable. The surface of the Hollywood road was a little rough in places. The surface to the fore of the former cottages is a little untidy in appearance.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Donard (despite the bumble bee incident!). We look forward with anticipation to the completion of ongoing works in the village.