

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Doneraile** Ref: **942**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **223**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	23
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>223</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the completed entry form and the supporting material. The map of the area was helpful with the adjudication. I note you have a small committee of 6, but undoubtedly there is great dedication amongst the members. Reading the support material there is an unusual amount of voluntary commitment. It is very positive, as you do, to keep the community informed of your plans and work programmes. I note you are keeping in touch with the schools and this is very worthwhile, and hopefully they will try and get the green flag status. You have generated a great spirit amongst the volunteers, and this is most important. Planning is very necessary for such projects, and you are going the right way in getting a three to five year plan commissioned by consultant Frank Donaldson.

You have gone to considerable lengths to prepare this entry form which proves you have an outstanding approach to the competition – well done.

### **The Built Environment:**

The presentation of the built environment is, more or less, out of the control of the tidy towns committee, as a lot of this responsibility rests with the statutory bodies and approach of business people, but you should make your views known on any new developments. The straight main street is picturesque and traditional town houses blend in tastily with the shops and offices. The shop fronts are very well presented. Doneraile Catholic Church is a splendid cut-stone structure; it is superbly landscaped and has an impressive statue of Canon Sheehan. I note there is some restoration taking place to the church and well done to the community for supporting this project. St Mary's church of Ireland is a building of unique character well maintained and the surrounding graveyard is maintained in a wonderful condition. The Grotto nestles peacefully in the stone face and is adorned with appropriate shrubs. The buildings at An Clochár are being developed retaining some of the original features. I personally feel that the inner church building could be renovated in the same style as

the original building in that the gable could be done using tradition stone building methods, and stone of a similar colour. Pat McAfee's book is very useful on stone work. The two schools looked clean and fresh with great landscaping and the statues are notable features. The older stately buildings of Doneraile have defining architectural qualities and their splendour would rival any similar building in Ireland.

### **Landscaping:**

Doneraile has developed a natural and sustained landscape with all the wonderful stone walls around and in the town plus the large quantity of mature trees. The grassed areas on the approach roads are manicured to a high degree and give a fresh and natural appearance to the area. The displays of summer flowers in spectacular cut stone containers, that resemble the old fashioned cattle troughs, are visually striking. Other patches of landscaping, together with the displays in the private houses, make an impressive show. I admired the old water pump which is a reminder of bygone days. It is good to find that new trees have been planted in many areas plus some well selected suitable shrubs. The graveyard on the Buttevant road was impressive and tidy. Well done for a great effort.

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

I look forward to seeing the new plan being put in place. It is good to study the topic as you are doing and positive to find that great knowledge was achieved. There is an abundance of all types of wildlife all around Doneraile in all those wonderful trees and walls, plus along the river bank.

### **Litter Control:**

Very little litter was observed, therefore your spring clean up was fruitful. The effort is obviously sustained to keep on top of the situation. I inspected a number of well serviced litter bins around the town.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

I inspected the three bins and they were well presented, clean and tidy. It was great to find that no packaging or cardboard was dumped as this is a big problem in many areas. It is good to liaise with the schools on composting and they could be assisted to attain the green flag status.

### **Tidiness:**

For the most part the town was tidy with the streets and footpaths spotless. Some weeds were noted on the approach road from Castletownroche. The business houses and private houses had their areas in great shape. There are a few places, in private ownership, that detract from the overall appearance of the town, and I appreciate they are out of your control. I refer to a house across the road from Doneraile store, a closed up shop second next to Doneraile store. An old rotted doorway on the splendid wall across from the school, the old galvanised gate near the convent buildings, a boarded up house across from Canon Sheehan Place and a disused site near the Church of Ireland. To mention these is not a criticism of your great efforts and all you can do is to keep in touch with the County Council engineers on the subject.

### **Residential Areas:**

The traditional town houses are very well maintained and, for the most part, decorated well. Canon Sheehan Park and Oliver Plunkett Place are well organised estates. An Clochar has an impressive entrance and good houses. I admired some spectacular houses around the town especially those up above the schools.

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

All the approach roads are in excellent condition. The major sign posts are clean and distinct. I liked the finger signposts in the town. The fencing off of the roads is very impressive with the wonderful stone walls. The back areas are well developed with good surfacing.

### **General Impression:**

You are making a great effort and by adopting the plan drawn up by Mr Donaldson you have a bright future in this competition. Enthusiasm exudes from your support material – congratulations.

