

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donaghmoyne** Ref: **268**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **222**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the excellent application form complete with sketch map of your idyllic village, which was seen to its best advantage in what was a beautiful summer days. Indeed maintenance work was ongoing on the day of adjudication. Last year's report alluded to the need for a basic 3 Year Plan and I would encourage the Committee to consider one prior to next year's competition, as it would give you a practical set of objectives to work to. Also, it might be worth looking at the idea of producing a little brochure that would depict the history of the village. It's good to note that you have the commitment of the local community, which is extremely important for the future development of the village.

The Built Environment:

Work was ongoing on the new extension to the Graveyard and the addition of the Grotto will enhance the old Church and its surrounds. Nice to note that the old church was saved from demolition and is now being used as a play school, a much needed resource for the local community.

The Post Office is certainly one of the focal buildings in the Village dating back to 1857 and, as was stated in last year's report, it would be worth having some information on its history as part of the previously mentioned village brochure. The National School and its grounds were in resplendent condition, as was the secluded modern St Lastra's Church with its well maintained grounds. The problem with the derelict site has been noted and hopefully the owner will comply with the wishes of the committee to at least tidy up the building or at best camouflage it. Good work being done in this category and improvements have been reflected by increase in marks.

Landscaping:

The standard in this category was quite good and the landscaping, and planting undertaken is ideal for a village of the size of Donaghmoynne. Stone name signs can be very effective if kept in a simple manner, as is the case with those at entrance roads into the village. The committee should consider some additional planting of perennials to give all year round impact. An ideal location would be the embankment in front of the very attractive new houses on the opposite side from the old Church.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Last year's mark does not reflect the basic wildlife habitats that are available within the village and its surrounds. To improve marks significantly in this category, it's important that the Committee seriously consider involving the school children in a wildlife project. This can be co coordinated in conjunction with the County Wildlife Officer or equivalent. The adjudicator has apportioned an increase in marks under this category on the basis that there are areas within the village that can be earmarked for potential wildlife initiatives

Litter Control:

Like most centres that want to progress in the competition, you have addressed area of litter control in an admirable fashion. You have an advantage in that the village is small and compact, and not subject to large volumes of people passing through. Keep the message of good litter control to the forefront and, once again, involve the school children in litter picks and poster campaigns.

Waste Minimisation:

There is no need to elaborate on what you are involved in with the Environment Officer and the School. Address this prior to next year's competition by listing the work schedule planned under this category. The Race Against Waste website will give you further information on suitable community projects that may be relevant to villages such as Donaghmoynne.

Tidiness:

The Village is very neat and tidy, and was seen at its best on a beautiful summers evening. FAS workers were undertaking Trojan work on the day. Hopefully, the owner of the derelict house will be persuaded to do something with the property. As far as one could ascertain, he is an absent landlord! Also, there is a back area containing a number of abandoned cars and trucks that needs to be tidied up. On the positive side, the post and rail fencing, pump and bollards were freshly painted and enhanced the village very much.

Residential Areas:

Donaghmoynne is a very small village that has not been affected by any large housing development and amen to that. The new houses that have been built are very much in keeping with existing properties, good use of stone and pleasant landscaping to the forefront. Boundary walls and fencing in and around the village were maintained well and top marks to local residents for their contribution.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrances in to Donaghmoynne are well maintained, verges trimmed in accordance with recommendations for the preservation of wildlife and nice attractive stone name signs. The roads are well surfaced and clearly marked. A few additional signposts on the outskirts of the village might make it easier for the visitor to find it.

General Impression:

Donaghmoynne is very attractive village nestled in among the Monaghan drumlins, it has not been affected by over development and that is a very positive thing to report. It has far more potential to do well in the competition in the years ahead, but the Committee have to consider preparing a 3 Year Plan with clear objectives that are realistic. Well done with your efforts to date.

