

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Donard** Ref: **262**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **251**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>251</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your application for TidyTowns 2009, and 5 year plan 2007-2011. Your committee of 10 is a good number for the size of the village. There are monthly meetings and good liaison with the Resident's association and National School. There is also support from Wicklow County Council, Fas and the Equestrian Club. You make good use of local press to spread the word. There is good organisation here with the various groups in the area working on defined objectives and mutually supporting one another. Well done on work to date and best of luck!

### **The Built Environment:**

The treatment of derelict cottages here is inspirational. They have been transformed into beautiful features with the painted doors and windows and hanging baskets. Toomey's is well painted and striking and there are some lovely cottages. The school looks fantastic but could do with taking down the sign that says 'children are prohibited from entering!' This is left over from some building work that must be finished now. The shop and Post Office in the village provide a nice focus at that junction. The sub-station is also well presented.

### **Landscaping:**

There are some nice trees planted at the school. Good weeding and general maintenance throughout. The beds in the village are gorgeous, and the area around statue of holy Mary gets a lot of love and attention. There are great floral displays at entrance to Palladius Park. Interesting trough and pump in village

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

The river and wetlands area at the N81 side of village is a great asset. There is on-going works for this habitat

and for the graveyard area, and staged plans for wildlife surveys, bat and bird boxes, sometimes species specific. An information panel in the village to promote biodiversity would be a great addition. The objective of providing continuous wildlife corridors from wilder north to farmland south was noted and there seems to be a clear understanding of environmental issues.

#### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was very good on day of adjudication with none present. The regular litter picks and contributions of the Fas worker are paying off, well done.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

You are commended on the community composting initiative and well done to the school for having the green flag. Good luck with future work in this area.

#### **Tidiness:**

The ball courts were clean and well screened. Great treatment of derelict cottages. Is it planned to do the same with ones on the approach from Glen of Imaal? A tidy up outside graveyard would make a difference on this approach. The defunct petrol pumps should be given a spruce up or removed. Some towns paint them bright colours and they can look very pretty. The phone box area is to be improved.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Palladius park is well cared for and has lovely plantings

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

From direction of Toomeys, there is good fencing and a painted wall brings you in, then past the graveyard and Church of Ireland and all stone walls and leafy overhead in a pleasant tunnel effect down into village. The new footpath is good quality from ball alley to palladius park.

#### **General Impression:**

There is a good vision here of what the community wants and how it will get there by working together. What a transformation the older generations must be seeing. Well done for steady progress and best wishes for continued success in future

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