

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donabate** Ref: **25**
County: **Dublin(Fingal)** Mark: **256**
Category: **D** Date(s): **20/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	50	30	32
Landscaping	50	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	32	32
Litter Control	50	29	32
Waste Minimisation	20	11	11
Tidiness	30	17	16
Residential Areas	40	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	251	256

Overall Development Approach:

Well done to Donabate TidyTowns for participating in this year's TidyTowns competition. We hope that the experience is worthwhile for your committee and community. Thank you for your submission and the copies of the Peninsula News which show that you maintain a profile in the community. The adjudicator is surprised to find that your committee is just of 5. In what way do you link with the Donabate Portrane Community Council? The Leader funding illustrates your standing in the community and the respect in which local agencies hold you. As a waste minimisation exercise one is pleased to read that you inform the residents through email as well as through newsletter. Well done on your engagement with the schools. It seems worthwhile and meaningful. One feels that your attitude to the competition is a healthy one. Hopefully you will feel that this year's adjudicator awards the marks your hard work and dirty fingers merit. The adjudicator appreciates the map you provided. It is clear and easily managed when driving round the village.

The Built Environment:

It would have been so easy to have by passed the turn up to the square and miss the Church of Ireland building. That would have been a disaster. This area is a haven of solitude created by the church, the cemetery, the walls, the old building, the green, the pump, the laneway and that garden. That laneway invites one to go to God knows where and one finds Newbridge Demesne at the end. Two old water pumps were discovered on the visit to Donabate and the adjudicator is delighted that both are being maintained as relics of another age in Donabate. The ecclesiastical influence runs right into town with the beautifully presented cemetery in the middle of the action. The centre of Donabate must have been transformed in the building boom with just a few buildings surviving such as Keeling's, the parish hall, the church, the delightful trio of cottages. Do you have any issues with the presentation of shop outlet signage in the village? One wonders about the siting of the beautiful sculpture. At present it is partially hidden by a brick raised bed and merges into its background because of the colouring of the buildings behind. The adjudicator almost missed it. It

deserves to stand out.

Landscaping:

Just as in the case of the built environment the landscaping highlight of the visit was the visit to the square on the way to Newbridge Demesne. One can understand why that garden won first prize. In fact many of the gardens on the laneway to the Demesne bring wonderful summer colour to their homes and the area, not to mention interest. The islands of shrubs in the village centre are important but somehow seemed a bit listless. Where window boxes and hanging baskets are used they do bring colour to their surroundings. Keelings and Smyth's certainly bring personality to their respective areas. The best trees are in the area of Newbridge. The landscaping at Beverton Park is another highlight and is enhanced by the surrounding wooded areas. Cates Café and SuperValu enliven the car park area with their colourful boxes and that beautiful rockery. One is pleased to read of your involvement with Growing Spaces Programme. Last year's report mentioned areas of biodiverse planting. There is no such mention this year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Glad to read that you are focusing on this section. The adjudicator could not find St Ita's and suggests that you include it in your map for next year. It would have been helpful to see the area. Your group are to be congratulated on being awarded such a big sum in order to undertake a study of the wetlands. A biodiversity plan is mentioned on a number of occasions in your submission but should have been included, even in summary form.

Litter Control:

All of the references to the Spring Clean are praiseworthy. Including the school children and socialising with other residents are important in creating litter awareness and promoting a litter free zone in Donabate. While there is litter it is not a contagion, is well under control.

Waste Minimisation:

The schools being involved in the Green Schools movement is a positive step in waste minimisation. Segregation is a waste minimisation measure but remember that reduction, minimisation are at the heart of this section. Therefore one is pleased to read that you plan to work with those involved in the Saturday market to reduce packaging and to reuse other items. Can you think of other achievable goals in this area for next year?

Tidiness:

There is a great footpath between Donabate and Portrane which brings welcome definition to the roadside and contributes to a tidy experience. But there are stretches where tidiness is an issue to the condition of the road verges. The centre of the village presents well. There is an issue with an overall tidy appearance. Is there a reason for retaining the telephone box? Graffiti is a problem from place to place. An example of graffiti in a prominent place is on a 'children at play' sign in the village centre.

Residential Areas:

The entrances to estates invites one to visit, such is the landscaping quality at the entrance. Carr's Mill, the Links, Cois Inbhir and Willow Brook are typical examples. The entrance to the Priory is an exception and needs care. Its entrance is neglected but it is a beautiful estate. Compliments for the definition between cut verge and meadow in many of the new estates as at Beaverbrook. Beverton Park is mentioned elsewhere. Traditional housing also survives. The cottages, the thatch, the estate at St Patrick's Park all represent the hallowed past of Donabate and do so regally. Warrington Mews and the four estates in the heart of the village provide a modern contrast and ensure that there will be lots of support from the schools for litter picks for many years to come.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Donabate has miles of approach roads. These present a challenge to a TidyTowns Committee. In order to create a tidy looking approach road into town, the road verges need to be tended to. While this work is carried out in places, this work is patchy. Residents along approach roads are to be complimented for the work they do. For instance the Beaverton approach road from the golf club is the most attractive one mainly due to its residential nature. Try to bring more definition to the road verges, if you have the necessary manpower. Back areas are delightful in Donabate. Examples are at the Church of Ireland and the cul de sac on the way to the pump.

General Impression:

The appearance of Donabate has been given a major uplift in recent years. This adjudicator had never been to Donabate prior to this latest building boom so no comment can be made on improvements or otherwise. Certainly the high quality housing in the estates must have enhanced the built environment of Donabate. A younger population will bring vitality to the village and will be an important Tidy Towns asset from now on. At the same time one is pleased that much of the older Donabate still survives.