

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donnybrook** Ref: **1346**

County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **215**

Category: **F** Date(s): **20/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	215

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Donnybrook to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition and the participation of Donnybrook is important to that competition. Donnybrook is largely a mature older residential part of south County Dublin. It is recommended that the first thing that the new Committee might do is to agree on the boundaries within which you will work for Tidy Towns. Normally this is about 1 km from the entry centre but in your area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Donnybrook and work within these. The supporting documentation for this might then be submitted with your 2008 entry. It is suggested that at an early date that your Tidy Towns Committee considers the preparation of a simple 3 Year Tidy Towns Action Plan for the Donnybrook area that would detail year by year the projects that you wish to undertake for Tidy Towns. When preparing the Plan it would be helpful to talk to any local organisations or agencies that may have an interest in the Competition.

The Built Environment:

The retail area along Donnybrook Road has probably developed over time from the two storey red brick houses that survive elsewhere along this road. Unfortunately in this retail area the ground floor brick elevation have generally been lost to frontages some of which do not sit well in the built environment in this area. Some of the signage uses poor materials and in at least one instance is out of scale with the building. However McCloskey's caught the eye because the retail frontage is quite good and the hand painted lettering very appropriate and in scale with the front elevation.

Landscaping:

Little if any formal landscaping was noted in public areas in Donnybrook and this is probably quite appropriate for this area. However it must be acknowledged that many private gardens in the Donnybrook area have

excellent well maintained mature landscaping that contributes positively to the overall presentation of the area. If the Tidy Towns Committee does consider the development of new landscaped areas do keep it simple and work towards year round planting of low maintenance appropriate shrubs and plants.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Marks are awarded under this category in the Tidy Towns Competition for the research and promotion of local wildlife. If Herbert Park comes within your Tidy Towns area then this may be an obvious place to start a wildlife project. The starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in the Herbert Park area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year. Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in Donnybrook, and investigate the possibility of new ones. Ultimately your objective is to encourage the existing wildlife to stay in the Donnybrook area and encourage new species to move in. This can only be done by creating an awareness of the feeding and shelter needs of the various species in the area. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved. As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter control on the day of the adjudication visit was quite good. However it is recommended that the 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan has a section on litter control and it may be useful to talk to the Local Authority in this regard.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Donnybrook for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in the Donnybrook area is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local school or schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. If you do not already have a Bring Bank Centre or if you have one that is not yet properly signposted from the town centre then such initiatives could gain additional marks for your centre in 2008.

Tidiness:

The main problem in regard to tidiness was in respect of graffiti that was noted in a few places such as the Donnybrook Road end of Marlborough Road and on some small steel units on the footpath across the road from the junction of these two roads.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas in Donnybrook are largely composed of older well maintained properties many of which have good mature landscaping. Some of these areas seem to have major problems in regard to on-street parking that can cause traffic management difficulties.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As in other adjacent Tidy Towns areas the main roads were well presented and heavily trafficked. Many of the roads are tree lined. In that regard Eglinton Road with two lines of trees that meet in the middle presented a most attractive rural-like sight. The retention of all existing trees along roads in Donnybrook should be an

important part of the work of the new Tidy Towns Committee.

General Impression:

Donnybrook is impressive and there is an attractive atmosphere here. The adjudicator would like to wish you well with your projects for 2008.

Marks