

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Donabate** Ref: **25**  
County: **Dublin(Fingal)** Mark: **245**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **29/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>245</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2009 Tidy Towns competition! It is impressive to see the level of dedication and the depth of community involvement in Donabate for the Tidy Towns competition. You did not include your 3-year plan this year – has it expired? If so it is important that you renew it with a revised vision for the town's development. The Tidy Towns awareness weekend is a great idea, as is the blogspot and your numerous media links. Last year's report made a number of specific suggestions and you should address these directly in the entry form.

### **The Built Environment:**

This section of the form was not filled in. You should use this space to describe any new structures in the town or if there are problems with dereliction. The main street looks very well and St. Patrick's church lends a strong focus – and looks great! The Senior Citizens Day Centre could be brightened up and the grounds were slightly littered – particularly with cigarette ends. 'Smyth's Pub' would look good if painted. It is acknowledged that you have made progress with recent developments and there are a few remaining areas that need to be addressed e.g. across from the Town Centre. The thatched cottage looks great and is a real symbol of Fingal's heritage.

### **Landscaping:**

Colourful landscaping throughout the town was admired and looks beautiful. It is suggested that you look at all open spaces and see how they can be planted for year-round impact e.g. with native Irish trees. A great idea, which would also be good for wildlife is to replant hedgerows that have been removed e.g. at 'The Hand' and further along Beaverstown road. The roses outside the Credit Union are especially striking.

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

To give a coherent approach to this category it is suggested that a wildlife survey be carried out that will identify important habitats and species and suggest actions to enhance and communicate the value of these features.

The town has a wonderful natural resource with Turvey woods and the coastal area. The brochure you have produced and the promotion of 'The Walks of Donabate' are great ways to encourage people to appreciate these amenities all the more

#### **Litter Control:**

Your emphasis on litter control is welcome as it was identified as a problem in some areas last year. The Supervalu car park was litter free. Unfortunately the area around the train station was littered and did not look well, including the car park. The main street and village green were very neat and litter free.

Overall there was good litter control but certain areas need to be focussed upon i.e. the train station.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations to the schools on achieving Green Flag status. This is an important advance in this category. The roll out of a brown bin service is also welcome. To move on to the next level you should work with local businesses to audit the volumes of waste and the current levels of recycling. This would allow you to target specific areas effectively.

The bring centre in Supervalu car park was spotless on adjudication day.

#### **Tidiness:**

The town in general is very neatly presented. The area around the 'Donabate Business Centre' needs to be weeded. The bike shed at the train station is graffitied and has some unsightly ads. The abandoned bike here should be removed. Some litter bins/bus stops etc. are a bit weathered and it is suggested that you audit these features in the town and address those that need attention. Christmas decorations on the Town Centre should be taken down. The 'Harvest Shop' looks great as does Jane Brennan's pharmacy. New footpaths and surfacing were noted.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The project to create a community garden in the Cois Inbhir estate is a fantastic initiative and could become a model for other estates to follow. Estates and residential areas all looked well on adjudication day however litter is a minor problem in some. The best garden contest is also a wonderful idea.

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

The approach road from the M1 is very well maintained with beautiful hedges and mature trees. The Scout Hall in the road to Portrane could do with a general clean-up. The next door Credit Union building looks great but its entrance sign is dirty and graffitied. The green areas around the community club, and signage at the roundabout here, needs attention.

#### **General Impression:**

Donabate is a wonderful town with a lot to offer. The TidyTown committee is to be commended for their organisational effort. It is hoped that litter can be addressed while also preparing a new multi-year action plan.