

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donnybrook** Ref: **1346**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **243**
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
TOTAL MARK	450	243

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Donnybrook is welcome to the 2014 National Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your submission. The map included in your application was not appropriate for adjudication purposes, in future submissions projects achieved for the current year should be enumerated and clearly identified on your map; another requirement is that a summary of your planned projects covering the next three year period at least should also be included. Your adjudicator was surprised at the limited size of the adjudication area and would suggest that this be reviewed by the Tidy Towns Committee for participation in future years. It is good to note the wide ranging list of groups, agencies, statutory bodies, etc. that play their part through the Tidy Towns Competition in the development of the village and of course the broad scope of your communication methods from print to YouTube is acknowledged.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

A number of buildings were nicely presented and include the Marian Gale and the Bang Olufson premises; both of these featured security shutters inside their windows which allows for an attractive window display outside of business hours; this should be the norm within the village as roller shutters to the outside of windows (as appears on Hanley Events) has a negative visual effect on streetscapes. The Madisons premises presented an attractive window display. The Donnybrook School and St. Mary's Youth Club enjoy a simple, unfussy but pleasing presentation. Flower displays and window boxes are suggested for the roadside façade of the Garda station. Hopefully the AIB premises which is for letting will be improved upon in terms of the presentation of its roadside elevation upon redevelopment. The banner which features on the upper storey of Lloyds Pharmacy and the Laptop Lab should be removed. The UCD Muckross Hall premises looks quite bland. An integrated shopfront design for the village centre might be considered. The Civic Square is an attractive development.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Rosebeds marking the entrance to Donnybrook Manor were admired for their colour, profusion and overall presentation. As noted above the Civic Space is quite charming here and flower displays and the green open spaces are being nicely maintained; might the area be redesigned to eliminate car parking or indeed reduce it and thereby giving it greater amenity value. Stands of small and maturing trees along the main street are thriving well. The grass verge along Belmont Villas was in need of greater maintenance at the time of adjudication. Most of the containers throughout the village centre were in need of replanting, most featured dead flowers.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

The small burial grounds looked neatly presented from the outside, as the gate was locked inspection inside could

not be undertaken. The tennis courts enjoy good maintenance and perimeter treatment also. It is good to note Donnybrook's participation in the annual Dodder Clean Up day. Some thought might be given to undertaking a bird survey, perhaps residents could be encouraged to identify and count species in their gardens with support from Birdwatch Ireland or indeed with the involvement of the national school children for their project work. A Wildlife Habitat interpretive panel for Donnybrook might also be installed on your Civic Square.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

For ideas on appropriate projects to attract an increase in marks under this heading log on to: <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> website and refer also to your Tidy Towns Handbook. The ultimate goal under this heading is to prevent waste at source rather than finding a new use for existing waste so choose future projects with this in mind. A recycling point was not found by your adjudicator during the inspection visit.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your participation in the An Taisce Annual Spring Clean and the Autumn Leaves clean up in conjunction with Dublin City Council are noted and of course appreciated; regular weeding of the area indicated on your map is acknowledged also. As regards graffiti, your work here is successful however some was noted on a service box and on the old horse trough. A service pole at Muckcross Hall had too many service cables radiating in several directions, this should be prioritised in any future ducting of service cables. Litter control was quite good however some was noted on the footpath outside of the Garda station and at the group of shops which includes the Marian Gale premises; more was noted in the car park at Mulberry Lane. A generally untidy area was noted at the end of The Crescent and the appearance of walls and gates backing out onto Mulberry Lane could be improved upon.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

No doubt the annual competition for Best Garden, etc. plays an important role in your performance under this heading as residential properties looked particularly well at the time of adjudication. Of course period dwellings along the main road look quite stately and Mount Eden road features attractive dwellings also. Donnybrook Manor is impeccable in presentation including greens, shrubberies and flower displays. A number of roadside boundary walls along Belmont Gardens could receive a little attention and the same applies to The Villas also. A roadside garden at The Crescent was particularly admired.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Heritage lampstandards are an especially attractive feature of Donnybrook and indeed street furniture in general looks well however there are a few exceptions; an old Belmont Avenue road sign (the Milltown end) could be refurbished and some lampstandards in Belmont Gardens might be refurbished also together with The Villas and the Park. The footpath surface on the main street is to a mixed standard; road surfaces however are quite good in general with the exception perhaps of the Mount Eden road and Mulberry Lane. Advertisements on the telephone kiosk in the Civic Square detract from an otherwise good presentation. Parking is well organised within the village.