

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donnybrook** Ref: **1346**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **276**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	34
TOTAL MARK	450	263	276

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu 2017 National Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your submission which includes a map and a plan. Ideally projects shown on the map should have been colour-coded as well as linked numerically to details in the entry form. Community involvement is strong in Donnybrook and links with a wide variety of stakeholders with a firm commitment to the community are fruitful. It is good to note you have your own website and use other social media as well as traditional methods of communication in disseminating Tidy Towns news and events. It is pleasant to note the benefits accrued to the community and built environment of participation in the competition.

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

The Havana premises exhibits a beautiful shopfront and window display with security shutters to the rear of the window thus allowing a display that enhances the streetscape after business hours; the same point applies to the Marion Gayle premises. It is good to note the planned redevelopment of the old AIB premises, this will make a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the entire streetscape of Donnybrook. The Crescent appears to have potential for interpretation of its industrial architecture and heritage which could be explored. The arrangement to the side of the Arthur Mayne premises enhances this section of the village. The curtilage area of Mola Architecture was admired. Congratulations on the handsome new signs for Donnybrook in addition to other work achieved under this heading.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Container flower displays throughout the village were admired for their colour and profusion. More are suggested for the traffic islands and pedestrian barriers at the Anglesey Bridge Junction and on all pedestrian traffic barriers; the 'Adopt an Island' initiative sounds good and results to-date are impressive, keep us up-dated. Container flower displays to the rear facade of the Garda Station would enhance the building, its car park and the Crescent in general. The maintenance and presentation of Donnybrook's trees is applauded together with that of green open spaces especially those in residential areas. In your choice of plants be mindful of the need to plant for year-round interest and colour and of course for wildlife. We look forward eagerly to the completion of the Village Plaza in 2019.

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

The Dodder River is a wonderful natural amenity running as it does through the heart of Donnybrook; the completion of the Dodder 'walkway' is an exciting development that will enhance this valuable amenity substantially. Interpretive panels on the wildlife habitats of the village might be installed at select locations to raise awareness and of course to

celebrate this great amenity. Well done on planting pollinator friendly plants and of course your wonderful Buzz shelter. Work accomplished for the Bird Sanctuary is a great investment in the future of Donnybrook's urban wildlife.

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

The use of the Tidy Towns website to raise community awareness of good practice under this heading is invaluable. The emphasis to date appears to be on reduce, reuse and recycle and we note in particular the children's play area made up of donated materials. For optimum performance under this heading you need to take on projects that will focus on prevention of waste at source and achieving efficiencies in the management of water and energy; we note rainwater harvesting in the play area and suggest a goal to expand this community wide for use in watering landscaped areas and containers. Similarly, energy efficient goals should be formulated and a focus on prevention of waste at source in addition to recycling is desirable. Log onto localprevention.ie to see what other communities are doing.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Try to have the three timber service poles with radiating cables located at the entrance to the Beech Hill estate removed as they spoil an otherwise good presentation. Litter control was quite good in Donnybrook during adjudication however there was a light scattering of litter including cigarette ends throughout the village. The car park of Mulberry Lane was more seriously littered and graffiti was notable here. Graffiti in the laneway beside Hampton Books should be removed from this otherwise attractive terrace of shops. Hopefully all overhead service cables will be ducted sooner rather than later and old poles replaced with more attractive features. Street furniture looks well and the 'Fox on the Box' is charming. Power hosing of streets and daily cleaning is noted favourably.

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

The entrance to the Beech Hill estate is tastefully landscaped and very inviting. Encourage residents to maintain their roadside boundary walls to a high standard. The sports grounds Beech Hill United FC is well maintained however its railings and entrance gates could be refurbished. Pembroke Cottages and those along Beaver Row are charming as always. Landscaping in Donnybrook Manor has high visual amenity value in respect of its design, maintenance and presentation. Mature trees grace Mount Eden Road / Belmont Avenue together with good roadside boundary treatment to residential properties in most instances.

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

The new nameplates facilitate an excellent first impression of Donnybrook for the visitor and the highlighting of Anglesey Bridge engraving with gold interleave is a nice touch. The traffic islands and pedestrian barriers at Anglesey Bridge were in need of refurbishment during adjudication. The restoration of the Beaver Row Iron Bridge together with the presentation of many items of street furniture is excellent. What a good idea to swap advertisement boards for space on planters to reduce clutter on footpaths! Very creative!

Concluding Remarks:

Donnybrook is an attractive urban village which retains much of its character, heritage and charm; we look forward to a Heritage Trail at a future adjudication.