

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Donnybrook** Ref: **1346**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **287**
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	38	38
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	39	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	27	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	12	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	37	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	36
TOTAL MARK	450	276	287

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Domhnach Broc chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your comprehensively completed entry form in this your 11th year taking part. The colourful map was a great help to the adjudicator with its annotated dots on it to highlight projects especially to be visited and considered for the current year of the competition, in each category. Try to reduce the scale of the map for next year so all of your centre is on the one sheet, to improve its usefulness for the adjudicator on the day of the visit. Three separate maps were a little unwieldy. You included a range of supplemental information including your groups' constitution, notes, posters and additional maps. While interesting to see, this volume of material can be hard to absorb when walking around your centre and trying to examine works done over the past year and thus eligible for marks. So perhaps for next year's entry you could edit down your submission somewhat. You have an impressive list of agencies you gain support from including many specialist sections of Dublin City Council and specialist interest groups such as local historical societies. Good luck with progressing your village plan for 2020. The representation you have on the local schools green school committees is very encouraging as it allows you create links with the younger generations in Donnybrook. You do not mention in the submission if you liaise and get support for your work from the rugby clubs, which are such prominent residents of Donnybrook. The fact that your committee communicates so well with your residents and businesses over a range of channels means that you really do seem to act as a real voice for your community. Well done on this approach.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The amphitheatre space with its lovely curved seating and quirky farm animals was looking very well on the day of the visit and the central tree gave much needed shade on a hot summer's day. This was a flagship project for you this year so well done on its successful realisation. We look forward to seeing phase 2 transform the car park wall here. The range of buildings in Donnybrook creates an impressive streetscape that it is hard to pick out particular favourites. The use of restrained signage at O'Connells was admired and the planting here, both at window boxes and to their lovely free standing carts was well designed and well maintained. The fire station and its forecourt looked well with the bed by the wall nicely maintained. You have a number of buildings in the village awaiting redevelopment and we hope to see progress on these in the coming years. Hoarding was still in place at Donnybrook House. Can the Christmas lights at Kieyls be removed from the façade in the short-term as they add to clutter here? The granite frontage of the Garda station is a gem with its recent cleaning and planters to the frontage here admired. Its period lights atop the pillars here are a delight. Achieving a comfortable and accessible public realm for all is key in all of our urban villages. The over proliferation of temporary path signage and sandwich boards can have a detrimental impact on the ease of movement of the less able pedestrians in your community and detract from your streetscape. They can become a hazard for parents with prams or buggies, people in wheelchairs, people

with walking aids or the visually impaired. Is there scope to reduce the amount of sandwich board signs in consultation with your local business? The placement of your own free standing planters were generally well thought out and did not cause a hazard. Work to Herbert Park is addressed in the landscape and open spaces category.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The 'adopt an island' scheme is an innovative approach to traffic islands and certainly has brightened up these dead spaces and brought colour to the road corridor. Well done to all of the volunteers involved. The many window boxes in core business premises certainly enlivened the streets and well done to all in investing in these displays. The free standing planters at the core of the village, with your Tidy Towns Groups crest prominently displayed, were admired and a nice addition to the street. The success of your seat project was seen on the day with the vibrant green paint and planters really highlighting these items of your street furniture that had become drab and invisible. The mix of planting in your displays shows your understanding and commitment to the aims of the All Ireland Pollination plan with a more varied approach and a higher proportion of more sustainable perennial over the more showy traditional bedding annuals. Remove suckers/weeds from the base of trees at Brendan Road as part of your annual tree pruning evening. Herbert Park was visited and was admired the tree trail is well annotated. The play area was teeming with children and indeed a scooter jam was noted at the entrance? Is a 'scooter parking area' needed as discarded scooters were blocking the entrance here? The old bandstand and newer park pavilion are lovely built elements of the park. We hope to see progress on your living wall for next year's visit. Good luck with the Dodder Greenway project also.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

The Pollinator Plan managed for wildlife signs were noted at the lovely planted beds beside the car park area at your amphitheatre open space. The Buzz shelter was also visited and despite the busy road alongside it, bees were happily present and working away at the flowers. Have you, as part of your village plan, carried out a survey of all habitats in Donnybrook. A simple plan can be used and on it indicate areas such as the river, graveyards, tree groups, garden areas, lawns etc. This would help you identify key sites of interest and formulate plans to help improve biodiversity by intervention or management practices. The Dodder is a key habitat for your group and we note the work you do with the Dodder Trust.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

You have a range of ideas for this category and have been promoting various workshops in the community for the past year on this topic which is a proactive approach to bringing the message into the heart of the community. We appreciate the effort your 6 cafes have put in to sign up to the conscious cup campaign. Have you considered progressing a strategy to get traders in the town to switch from other single-use plastics? For example promote the use of paper straws in your pubs rather than plastic? The (park)ing day participation between yourselves and MOLA architects is a simple, fun way to promote creativity and show how precious urban space can be used in an alternative if temporary way. The 'Don't Leaf it' to others is a catchy way to both promote composting and encourage volunteering and well done in leading the way in this

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to all involved in the Dublin City Best Clean Up Team awards. Given the range of uses in the area and the number of visitors, your centre was very well presented. Bins were generally emptied and clean, the QR code system must be working. We noted that some of your planters were being used as litter receptacles in spite of generous amounts of bins nearby which is such a shame. No doubt the random drinks cans and bottles seen amongst the planters will be removed as part of your general maintenance. The use of Irish on your anti-litter notices to your planters was also noted and appreciated. The old tram poles along Morehampton Road, now used as light standards, are a lovely reminder of the history of our urban street furniture. However the green paint is looking old, faded and is peeling and needs to be repainted. Trim back the vegetation from the railing mounted Mount Eden street sign at the junction with Morehampton Road. Some of your free standing utility boxes could also benefit from a clean and a new coat of paint but we see in your submission that you have plans for works to these. The fox box was admired. The blue entrance gate to Old Wesley also needs a clean-up and a coat of paint. The corner at the car park is a bit of a litter trap and old planters stored here should be removed in the short term till your plans here are advanced. Small amounts of graffiti were noted to some of your lanes and to a few bins but you have a very strong graffiti strategy outlined in your submission and are taking a very proactive approach to this issue.

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

You are rightly proud of the good relationships you have with your residents associations and the success of your collaboration with residents groups. Welcome to your newest partners the Herbert Park Area Residents Association. Once again the estate of Donnybrook Manor was presented to a very high standard. The community garden at Beech hill is a great idea. Do you have links with the areas apartment dwellers who may not have direct access to residents associations? Create links with local management companies to allow you for example put posters for your work or volunteering opportunities in apartment blocks communal areas and lobby's.

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

The success of your seat project was seen on the day with the vibrant green paint and planters really highlighting these items of your street furniture that had become drab and invisible. It is good to see replacement avenue trees have been planted to ensure the long term continuity of trees along Morehampton Road. Ensure tree ties are

removed before they begin to rub and cause damage to the bark of these newer trees. The blue and white Morehampton Road railing mounted street sign, with its lovely use of old Irish lettering, needs a clean and a coat of paint. At key pedestrian crossing such as at the junction of Marlborough Road and Morehampton Road try to ensure crossing lines are repainted if any road or utility works disrupt the surface here. Consistent good quality marking of crossings indicating pedestrian rights of way should be maintained in good condition. Talk to the road maintenance section of Dublin City Council if utility companies do not reinstate the road or footpaths in Donnybrook properly after any road works.

Concluding Remarks:

Given Donnybrooks city location and the fact that your urban village is located alongside such a busy traffic route, the effort put into the maintenance of your community's common areas is admired. The difficulty of maintaining an identity as a distinct community in such a busy location is very much appreciated. All involved with this year's entry are warmly thanked and we wish you well for your plans for 2019.