

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Douglas** Ref: **116**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **251**
Category: **G** Date(s): **16/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	22
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the filled out entry form. Thank you also for the detailed map of the area and the other supporting material. I note you have ten committee members and you are part of a community association. There is great commitment in evidence when people give up some of their spare time to attend the weekly meetings. You are getting support from an array of agencies and you are communicating well with the residents of Douglas. It is worthwhile, as you are doing, to engage with the local schools, and you could assist them with green flag status. There surely is a vibrant community in the area with the large amounts of events and festivals that take place locally. All of this means you have a very good approach to the competition.

The Built Environment:

Tesco is the dominant feature of Douglas. Ulster Bank, East Village Bar and Restaurant, and McDonalds are impressive. Some spectacular new buildings are at EBS, Amicas Café and Mischief Makers. I admired Nakon Thai and the Veterinary Animal Centre. St Columb's Church is very well maintained – bright and fresh. Douglas Scout Centre and St Luke's spacious school were also admired. The Anglican Church looked supreme with great landscaping and it sported a wonderful cut stone entrance and wrought iron gates. AIB looked supreme. But there are many other well kept shops and offices.

Landscaping:

In the car parking area of the Ulster Bank there is excellent landscaping. The roundabout Douglas – Rochestown is expertly landscaped. Spectacular traditional stone walls surround the graveyards. The church of Ireland Graveyard was beautiful, but the one at the other side looked a bit shabby, but some people keep their graves very well there. A sign in this graveyard reads "No Dumping Please" but a few feet away across the path from this sign rubbish was dumped, mainly branches of trees. There were some impressive splashes

of landscaping which gave a fresh and crisp appearance. The new large planter box at LAL Quila was spectacular.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I read in your plan the proposal to build walkways that have gone in for submission. You also propose to produce information boards on flora and fauna. I wish you success with these proposals. I also read you intend to promote a greater understanding of historical sites - excellent! The spacious public park is a great amenity, and was well kept with fine trees and it has good seating. I felt a few litter bins could be provided in this park. The spacious children's playground is wonderful facility and it was great to see a lot of children thoroughly enjoying themselves in the fresh air.

Litter Control:

The control of litter was reasonably good but some litter was found here and there. Some litter was outside TSB and Chartbusters. There are plenty litter bins which are well serviced.

Waste Minimisation:

You have a good approach to waste minimisation, and I studied your remarks on segregation of waste cans and bottles, liaison with community associations on waste, work with the council on black spots, encourage businesses to clear black spots. I inspected a bring centre and it was well serviced, clean and tidy.

Tidiness:

A lot of weeds on the footpaths were noted outside the graveyards. The road outside Douglas Community Park was unsightly with lots of weeds. For the most part the rest of Douglas was orderly and tidy. Graffiti on sign posts of the shopping centre was noted. Ongoing works at Tesco and two other building sites marred the areas.

Residential Areas:

Reeves Wood is an excellent estate with wonderful landscaping and great houses. A number of other housing estates were visited and there is great attention given to planning and landscaping in all the estates notably the new ones which are very well laid out. Douglas Lawn, Shamrock Lawn, Grattan Park and Marlborough Estate are merely listed as examples of the numerous estates around the town. There is an array of wonderful private houses in the Douglas area with spectacular lawns, hedging, trees, flowers and shrubs.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads are in fairly good condition. Most of the road signs are clear and distinct. The road side fencing is excellent with some fantastic stone walls. All the back areas of the town are very well developed and provide spaces for car parking.

General Impression:

You are making a determined effort to maintain and improve your area. The planning of Douglas is impressive with the old blending in well with the new developments. Adjudication was made somewhat difficult due to many parking restrictions in this busy area. Well done for your efforts.