

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Douglas** Ref: **116**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **264**
Category: **G** Date(s): **08/07/2011**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2010 | Mark Awarded 2011 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 40 | 40 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 35 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 37 | 38 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 28 | 29 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 25 | 24 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 22 | 22 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 31 | 32 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 26 | 27 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 261 | 264 |

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Douglas to the 2011 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for your detailed entry form. It is always interesting to have a TidyTowns entry from a much larger urban area. With nineteen volunteers and bi-monthly meetings your committee is an active and progressive one. A wide range of public and private organisations support your work and this is a key ingredient in future competition success. Thank you for the map marking your projects all of which were visited. Your work on communications is good and your use a complimentary range of measures to get your message across. Work on upgrading your website was underway at the time that the entry was submitted. Your difficulty working with two Local Authorities is understood. Many thanks for the Tidy Towns Plan. This was read with interest but it is suggested that you use the ten adjudication categories as a framework.

The Built Environment:

The upgraded TidyTowns village centre map was visited and this is helpful. However the wildlife panel needed to be replaced here. The Shop fronts Competition is warmly commended and some attractive facades were seen and these are mentioned below. The Catholic Church makes a fine pleasing statement especially when seen from the Park and framed by mature trees. At the main Park entrance the Community association building was found to be very neat and tidy while at St Luke's School good grass areas stood out. Along Church Road excellent well maintained landscaping at the small Church caught the eye. A commercial premises with excellent roadside grass and landscaped areas was noted at McDonalds Drive. Extensive mature roadside landscaping at The Rochestown Park Hotel attractive positive attention. The large Shopping area at Dunnes was examined in detail and were the overall presentation was probably a little above what is normally expected at such centres. St Columba's Hall on Church Street was carefully presented. In the core village area the Eco Douglas premises was a delight. Good landscaping over the door and windows is

complimented by excellent clear and clinical graphics.

Landscaping:

New shrubs and other planting at the Plaza was greatly admired and additional work at the Garda Station stood out. The planting of 10,000 Crocuses must have been a huge task and this says so much for voluntary effort in Douglas. Your contacts with the NRA and the County Council about growth cutting have hopefully been productive. Tubs and planters added welcome additional colour to various parts of Douglas visited. The Park was visited and greatly enjoyed and tree removal or cutting was in progress on the day of the visit. This is such an unexpected haven of peace in a busy area. Some of the seats here needed to be treated. The sensory garden project for the National School is of great interest. The gravel landscaping behind and to the sides of the Bring Centre at the Park entrance was poorly maintained. At the bottom of Grange Road on the right some good colourful roadside landscaping was admired. The Fingerpost central landscaped area was a delight and the raised central area adds much to the overall visual impact. Good landscaping also caught the eye at the Ulster Bank area. It is suggested that at Topaz that the gravel area at the roadside is landscaped. By the flyover good mature landscaping was admired on both sides of the road. Your adjudicator reminds all Tidy Towns Committees that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The clean up at Douglas Woods is a welcome initiative and such areas will always need a major initiative such as this from time to time. The Butterfly Garden in the Park is a welcome concession to the needs of wildlife. You mentioned in your entry that you cleaned up the river in Douglas Woods. Did you get professional advice in advance on the wildlife implications? Have you considered the provision of a wildlife trail through the Park or the provision of some additional interpretation?

Litter Control:

The carrying out of litter picks on 42 weeks of the year is a major initiative. At the Community Centre the upgraded Bring Centre was visited. Just a little litter was seen at the back of the units here. Your concerns about dumping are understood; have you considered installing cameras? It was great to read of the strong support of the Ryan's SuperValu staff for Tidy Towns in Douglas. The Keep Douglas Tidy campaign with the Schools is interesting and next year you might let us have a little additional detail on that initiative. The Bring Centre at SuperValu was visited and was found to be quite littered. The official Bring Centre signage was not in place here. Litter was also evident on Grange road at the Cooney's Lane junction. The Bring Centre signage was missing from the Dunnes Stores location also. The units here looked a little crowded and would be better if placed in a straight line. There is space here to do this. Litter was evident at Car Park B at Dunnes Stores. In the village centre mild littering was evident apart from the pavement across the road from Centra. This pavement area was very badly littered. At the Douglas West end of Church Street bad littering was seen and much litter was present at the pedestrian entrance to the Park near here.

Waste Minimisation:

Your liaison with the Shopping Centre on waste minimisation is commended. However you gave no indication of the results of these contacts and what improvements were consequently brought about. Do concentrate on the waste reduction aspect of this category which is the key issue here. Your recycling initiatives are of course important and should continue. It was good to see that your upgraded website will promote waste reduction but it should give examples of what can be done at retail and consumer levels.

Tidiness:

Work on graffiti removal is acknowledged but there was still quite a lot of graffiti in Douglas. The removal of old signage is warmly welcomed. Graffiti was evident on some of the Park seats and all seats needed to be treated. At the main Park entrance the information panel on the left was empty on one side and posters had been stuck on the display surface. The graphics here needed to be replaced. At this park entrance the railings needed to be repainted. There was much signage clutter at the Fingerpost area and some rationalisation must be possible. The old Glenbrook / Monkstown black and white sign needs urgent replacement. Graffiti on the damaged bus shelter near Dunnes needed attention and maintenance. Signage in front of Exham House also needed attention. Outside Bully's Restaurant the bent pole is dangerous and needs to be replaced and the bollards at the Church Street / Village junction needed to be treated. This area was also quite untidy.

Residential Areas:

The cleanup work in nine estates is welcomed and some of these were visited and some entrance signage seemed to have improved. Kerb weed at Pembroke Mews was an issue while at Grange Erin mature

landscaping caught the eye here. Maryborough Woods is a very large mature estate where height variations have been well used in design terms. The cottages along by the Anna premises were visited and the good use of colour here was noted. Housing on East Douglas Street also appealed to this adjudicator and especially the superbly presented Belfry.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The clean up on the slope roads is commended and this is not always the safest of places in which to work. Were the Gardai able to give you any traffic control support for this work? The Carrigaline road greatly impressed with the fine trees and good verges one of which is raised. Along the Maryborough approach fine stone walls lead the eye in towards the Fingerpost. Donnybrook Hill was equally impressive. Extensive well maintained verges are a key aspect of the Rochestown Road approach.

General Impression:

Considering the major size of the Douglas area your committee continues to make good progress in the competition. What is especially impressive is your success in getting the support of critical agencies and groups. Good luck in the year ahead and we will be back in summer 2012.