

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DOWRA**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	10
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10
Landscaping	40	12
The Built Environment	40	12
Litter Control	40	15
Tidiness	20	6
Residential Areas	30	10
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15
General Impression	10	3
TOTAL MARK	300	93

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Dowra is welcome back into the Tidy Towns Competition. As you will appreciate the competition has become highly competitive and the standard set by other competing towns is enormous. Therefore Dowra has a long road to travel in order to become top winners in this competition. Nonetheless at the junction of the Leitrim and Cavan Ways and with the River Shannon running so beautifully through your town you have every reason to hope for high achievement. It is essential that you make a very definite plan, put it before your community and seek the support of everyone in the community in order to achieve it. The plan will give you an agenda and will allow you to discuss the dereliction throughout the town in a non - combative fashion. If you do not make this plan, progress will be difficult.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As already remarked the hill walking opportunities and the Shannon running through the town give you an excellent opportunity to garner good marks within this category. Consult your local wildlife enthusiast and put in place some walkway by the river highlighting the wildlife and the flora and fauna that can be seen there.

LANDSCAPING

The absence of landscaping was typified by the planter in front of the National Irish Bank which was full of weeds! Dowra has a natural beauty given to it by the mountains which can be complemented by good planting and colourful arrangements within the townscape. It is essential that you get colour into your town to brighten it both for the visitor and local alike.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

With the exception of one or two commercial buildings, the built environment of Dowra needs much improvement. The school grounds for instance were very untidy and derelict houses abound throughout the town.

The public agency buildings such as the Health Centre and Garda Station had no colour or any sense of ownership within the community. It is essential that you deal with the dereliction with the neglected infill sites. Use strong colour and determination to correct these problems.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter did not appear to be a major problem in the town on the day of the adjudication and that is a definite plus. Well done.

TIDINESS

The general air of Dowra, as is already remarked within this report, is of a town that has suffered badly from emigration and dereliction. Clearly then any sense of tidiness is negated greatly by the problems already outlined.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is essential that everyone within a small community makes an effort to put colour and style into their premises. Again this is an area where with very little effort but with a keen community spirit much could be done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surface throughout the town left a lot to be desired and you should consult with your Local Authority to establish what improvements can be achieved. The neglected buildings on the approach roads and the badly maintained in fill sites on the Glangevlin and Carrick Roads were very off-putting. The entry signs were obscured by grass and the untidy verges gave no sense of arrival to your village. A number of abandoned lorry bases and some agricultural equipment were noted both on the approach roads and in the areas around the town itself. This must be improved.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Clearly Dowra has a very small community with a small local face and an even smaller commercial base. Nonetheless, as a small place you could achieve very much. Put a plan in place and seek support for it. As a strategically located tourism location you have every reason to expect support from the relevant local. Keep up the work. Do not be dismayed by this report but rather use it as a leverage to create the community spirit necessary for success in the Tidy Towns Competition. Good luck.