

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNFANAGHY**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	34
Litter Control	40	34
Tidiness	20	16
Residential Areas	30	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	238

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You continue to perform well in the competition and this obviously is due in no small way to the commitment and dedication of an enthusiastic Tidy Towns Committee. You have established a good relationship with the community and business sector and this is vital for continued progress. This will not be easy as many of the problems identified are outside the direct control of the Tidy Towns Committee. However, the proposed Village Renewal Scheme can help in this regard and should make a positive contribution to further progress. As mentioned in last years report, you are well up in the top league - attention to detail is now of priority.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on the poster competition. Your proposals as outlined are very positive and when implemented to the full, will enhance your performance under this heading. Dunfanaghy Harbour is an attractive amenity of great natural interest and needs up-grading. Do give consideration to developing a nature/historical trail in the area. Steady progress under this heading is noted by the adjudicator.

LANDSCAPING

Your comments have been noted. The young trees are maturing nicely and the numerous flower beds throughout this village were colourful and well maintained. Your primary task under this heading is to influence the proposed Village Renewal Scheme to up-grade the presentation of the Harbour area. Professional advice will be necessary to ensure that only suitable planting and environmental features are considered. Increase the presentation of floral displays and encourage the greater use of flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes - Danny Collins, Gallery, Village Stores, Holy Trinity School were eye catching in this regard. The green area opposite Arnolds Hotel is excellent. The stone sea wall, anchor and planting enhance this amenity greatly - pity the view is obscured by car parking. Do give serious consideration to creating a similar amenity elsewhere in the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In general the built environment of Dunfanaghy is presented well - the stone buildings in the area of the Square have great character and the Square itself continues to improve in overall presentation. The public toilets are freshly painted and well maintained - well done. As already mentioned the harbour area needs attention and should have a priority rating in future plans. Hopefully the many residential/holiday homes under construction on the Creeslough Road will be finished with an overall high standard of presentation including landscaping. In such matters of construction it is important that all unused materials are removed when work is finished. The Gallery, Heritage Centre and Hotels (Arnolds and Carraig Rua) are all well presented and are a pleasant and eye catching feature of the village. Some disused buildings and unkempt open spaces are untidy and a blot on the streetscape and need attention. On the credit side you have done an excellent job in effectively disguising the disused premises opposite the square. Well done! The forecourt of the garage is disappointing - the curtilage area might be presented better. In general you continue to perform well under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Despite the large number of visitors to Dunfanaghy on adjudication day, litter control was excellent and bins presented tidily. However, this adjudicator would like to see an improvement in the quality and uniformity of litter bins.

TIDINESS

Thank you for the detailed map with particular reference to the harbour area. The private reclaiming of part of the harbour is still on-going and unsightly. It would help the Tidy Towns Committee if the

developer could expedite progress. Pay more attention to boundary areas, disused buildings and untidy open spaces. The harbour area is vulnerable in regard to indiscriminate dumping - regular checks are necessary. Tidiness is a very important first impression for visitors.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As already mentioned, the terraced stone buildings are well presented and nicely decorated with floral displays. Other residential properties also looked well and many new houses/bungalows on the Creeslough Road have attractively landscaped gardens with generous planting. Your priority under this heading is the housing estate which is urgently in need of renovation - gardens in particular are untidy and poorly presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Most approach roads were presented well - the new stone walls on the Creeslough Road are impacting and the verges were trimmed and neatly presented. You have repaired the wooden fencing - well done. Verges on the Falcarragh Road were also trimmed. The entrance to the Golf Course will look well when work is finished as will the car park. Tidy up the car park at the New Lake - an important angling and wildlife centre. Additional signposting of golf course, car parks, angling lakes, habitats, harbour, public toilets etc. is recommended. The design and colour code for all directional signs should be in line with Department of the Environment requirements. Some inner roads could be presented better and should have a priority rating in your work schedule - very necessary for the overall appearance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very active Tidy Towns Committee has, with the support of the community, achieved much progress in recent years. To expedite further progress and bring you into consideration for a major award you will need to focus more on a 3 year development plan for the village which will prioritise your problem areas. The Village Renewal Scheme is an exciting development and should make a real impact. Hopefully the work programme will be finished in time for next years adjudication. Attention to detail will also enhance your progress. In general, you continue to perform well - congratulations.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/96)

The general impression created by Dunfanaghy on the sunny August day of Second Adjudication was that of a busy market town in a magnificent setting on the Atlantic. The town appears to "turn its back" on the harbour area, which sports an abundance of storage/warehousing buildings and yards. This area is an integral part of the town's character and heritage and should, therefore, be incorporated back into the overall framework of the town. The abundance of signs advertising B&B's on the Letterkenny road create a very cluttered appearance. The adjudicator was pleased to note the retention of the traditional telephone box which was, unfortunately, in very bad order - in fact a mere shell. The surface of the garage forecourt was also in need of attention. The freshly painted old national school with its display of nasturtiums was admired, although the boundary wall sported some algae growth. The charming Presbyterian Church on the hill was nicely landscaped, if a litter bare. The simple stone and plastered Catholic Church was attractively maintained also. The boundary wall, however, was badly stained. The Garda Station also looked very fresh. However, its entrance area had no gates, which looked unfortunate. Some attention is also needed to the boundary walls of the housing estate on the road leading back down to the Catholic Church, as quite a few were rather grubby.