

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DUNGARVAN**  
County : **WATERFORD**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Dungarvan Tidy Towns Committee have responded positively and effectively to the changed emphasis in the Tidy Towns Campaign. Thank you for the detailed 3 year Work Programme together with detailed and most helpful town map; the schedule of works undertaken this year together, again, with the detailed and most helpful accompanying map. All of this documentation was very useful and beneficial on the day of adjudication.

The 3 year Work Programme sets forth a vision of Dungarvan embracing Urban Renewal and the appropriate presentation of its rich historic and heritage resources. Attention is given to the wildlife, the enhancement of habitat and facilities for various birds.

Major land use questions within the urban area appear on the point of being resolved and the Committee and the very energetic UDC, working together with the support of the wider community, can look forward to further achievements for this most interesting town.

Dungarvan enjoys excellent views and amenities but there is evidence that the fine facilities are not sufficiently appreciated and regarded by the Community. For example, the splendid promenade in Abbeyside shows little signs of care and maintenance and even less of use.

One aspect calls for a concerted planned response and that is, the general poor presentation of street and directional signage within and on the outskirts of the centre. Initially some signs - notably "Welcome to Dungarvan" - should be simply removed unless and until resources are available for their appropriate refurbishment. In many locations flagpoles are a welcome facility but in few if any cases were flags being flown.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Dungarvan Bay and the frequent glimpses of it is a major resource, as is the fine harbour. Large grassed areas at Kilrush would benefit from more planting to encourage wildlife.

### LANDSCAPING

Dungarvan is blessed with splendid open spaces many of which are particularly well presented. Industries too have played their part notably Microchem Laboratories and Stafford Miller which featured splendid grounds. The sea wall on the Cork Road was at a height which enabled continuous views of the sea. The small Band Stand park was pleasant and this area is now enhanced further by installation of red cobble-lock paving and fine new lighting. The extensive UDC carparks are very well presented but again some signage needs attention.

The splendid and expansive grassed area around the Leisure Centre was well presented as was the Club itself. Planting was excellent on the by-pass and also the occasional seats. There were some gaps however in the screening tree belt - these need attention both for best effect and because of the continuing need for screening of undeveloped areas. The Connigar Pitch & Putt Club grounds were very well presented in general but the chain-link wire fencing was disfigured by weeds which were also prominent at the edge of the car park. The Causeway Park looked delightful and is very well maintained. The small scale grassed area adjacent to the Toilets was a very skillful and appropriate use of this incidental space.

The overhead wires in the sports area seemed very intrusive. Within the general streetscape itself a greater use of trees, hanging baskets and window boxes is recommended.

The very fine floral display at the Waterford road entrance "Welcome to Dungarvan" was a delight. The entrance to the Park Hotel and that area was very well presented as were the Mount Odell Training

Centre grounds. Work is still in progress on the new entrance area to the County Council machinery yard. Particular praise is directed to the splendid entrance area of Páirc Uí iFearacair GAA grounds. Smaller areas, for example the Post Office foreground, were well presented but the flowers were looking a little jaded on the day of adjudication.

#### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In the new Competition in addition to premises and buildings as such - walls, bridges, harbours and other aspects of the built environment are given due weight, as they must, in the total presentation of the centre. As a general comment a survey of protruding plastic signs may find that a number are surplus to requirements and, could, with advantage, be removed.

The Library building was very well presented, Antiques & Curiosity caught the eye. The traditional signage on Merry's is now poorly presented, Waterford Crystal Factory was well presented with 3 flagpoles but no flags flying. Schools on Michael Street were well presented and small items - the retention of the little sign referring to New Chapel on the sports ground road, were a delight. Dungarvan Youth Club was attractive and well presented. The FDC offices maintained the usual high standards of this Company with good signage and floral arrangements. The imposing Abbesside Church was very well presented. Indeed the view from the Pitch & Putt area of the three churches and the old abbey is an imposing aspect. The establishment of Breoilin Glass in the old building is a hopeful sign.

Paddy Foley's Pub and the Tudor House Bar, were very well presented. Equally the garden of the Mooring's Bar overlooking the harbour makes an appropriate use of King John's Castle as a backdrop. The Anchor Bar was equally well presented as was Davitt's Pub.

Dungarvan Lighting & Gifts was very well presented while the signage on Baumann also caught the eye.

An example to all was the presentation of the UDC Town Hall, well painted and with a splendid display of hanging baskets. The two abandoned shops in the main shopping area are disappointing and energetic efforts should be made to return them to gainful use and, in the meantime, if necessary, a temporary painting job is recommended to reduce the visual impact.

#### LITTER CONTROL

Dungarvan is a large busy centre and so a suitable litter management programme must be devised and implemented. Waste and its disposal is a major topic and problem for authorities and the prevention of incidental litter is now seen, rightly, as a priority item for attention.

In general the litter bins throughout the centre were suitably sited. Additional bins are certainly required and some of the existing stock require refurbishment. Litter was a problem on the by-pass routes and near the Pitch & Putt grounds.

Minor amounts of litter were noted throughout the centre but Abbesside - with the exception of the promenade area - was virtually completely clear of disfiguring litter. The Causeway Gardens were a delight and are clearly being respected despite heavy usage.

#### TIDINESS

There were modest amounts of spoil at the base of walls. While the National Route signs were clean and well presented, other signage including street name signs - Mary Street for example - need attention. The signage for Dungarvan Industrial Park needed attention and a sign for the IDA had been allowed to slip down the pole and was resting on the ground! Some of the low level fencing on the ring road was broken and the use of a strimmer, in addition to conventional lawnmowers is required. The mural near the County Council Offices is past its best and should now be over-painted or refurbished.

The storage of kegs at the front of hotels and bars should be discouraged. The Fire Station calls for early attention. The grounds of St. Mary's Old Church were overgrown at the entrance area and the foreground of the Ormonde Theatre is in need of attention. Minor items also detracted, for example, the light askew at Kilrush Park and the overgrown grass at Skehacrine.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Springfield estate houses were very well presented as were, especially, the entrance areas. The establishment of a managing committee at Childer's Estate is to be welcomed - this estate is very well laid out but needs additional involvement and commitment by the residents to present it to optimum effect. The [signless] signpole at the entrance should, as a matter of urgency, be removed or refurbished. Individual houses throughout the centre notably at Abbeyside and also on the Clonmel approach road were splendid with fine gardens. Byrneville was not litter-free and standards of presentation varied. Mountain Villas were very well presented and colourful gardens were a feature of the Oreenatra. The nameplate requires replacement at Park Lane Green. The new planting [Shear's Street] when matured will contribute to an overall pleasing presentation.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance to Dungarvan from Cork is a delight. Combination of sea views, attractive landscaping and well cultivated grassed areas contributed to a very good impression of the town. Aspects of the main Waterford road are of a similar high standard. The lesser approach road - Clonmel, Aglish, etc do not achieve the same inviting ambience. The 30 mph sign is damaged on the Clonmel road. The "Welcome to Dungarvan" sign on the Aglish road is probably counter-productive. Hedgerows and verges were well cut back. The ESB Sub-Station on the Aglish road required screening.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Dungarvan is an attractive town with a substantial and valuable built environment, in a suitable shore side setting. It offers substantial and spectacular vistas but, in places an unevenness of presentation, which suggests that the Community, collectively, have not assumed ownership or offered involvement in the energetic Tidy Towns Programme mapped out for the next 3 years.

It is suggested therefore that a policy of encouraging public involvement, debate and discussion about the Programme, its objectives, scheduling and funding is required. Similar sized centres have found the use of competitions, both area and sector based, to be most valuable in this regard.

Dungarvan Tidy Towns Committee are thanked for their comprehensive entry, for their efforts and wished well in the future.