

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNMORE EAST**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	33
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	16
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	211

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

With the adjusted emphasis in the Tidy Towns movement on the encouragement of wildlife, coupled with a more long-term approach to the optimum presentation of a centre, Dunmore East is well poised to advance. The extensive habitat of the Kittiwakes, coupled with the always interesting housing stock gives the centre a real opportunity to advance.

In common with many towns in County Waterford the road surfacing does not extend the full distance to the pavement leaving, very often, an ugly, untreated area at the sides of roads which can become a receptacle for disfiguring spoil, weed growth and grass.

This aspect might, with advantage, be considered in the context of developing a long-term programme for implementation by the committee, perhaps over the next 2 or 3 years, in association with FAS, Waterford County Council and those agencies which impact on the physical landscape of Dunmore East. Being a holiday resort we would encourage the flying of more flags and applaud the display in this regard at the Ocean Hotel and the Candlelight Inn. There are other flagpoles in the centre, but strangely none were flying flags.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The pride of place in wildlife must go to the Kittiwake Colony which is arguably unique in its location within an urban setting. Information should be secured on whether the colony is static, growing or declining and appropriate action taken in this regard.

The Blue Flag beach at Councillors Strand is a tribute to the presentation of the beach. There was some minor amount of spoil at the edge of the carpark here. The helpful map and notes at the entrance to the wooded area is excellent. The GAA grounds' hedge is somewhat overgrown while the soccer field, nearby, needs to complete its entrance area. The splendid Peoples' Park was, as usual, excellently presented, while the grassed areas of the Haven Hotel were also freshly cut and neat.

LANDSCAPING

Dunmore has an integrity begot of its delightful layout utilising the deeply indented shoreline and augmented by its rich stock of dwellings and commercial premises. Although consisting of many different elements, the Harbour area, the mature streetscape from there, the lower village and the new resort area on the Killea road, Dunmore has an entity and a cohesiveness about it which few centres can rival. The flowerbed and other planting notably on the approach road from Waterford and at the junction of the Harbour and Beach road are a delight. The palm trees planted here are wholly appropriate and suitable.

The greater Harbour area needs careful treatment if it is to avoid a deepening sense of untidiness. Extensive building programmes and the areas surrounding these busy commercial undertakings, call for energetic and determined action to improve their overall presentation. The attractive display of the anchor, for example, is almost lost in surrounding, informal storage.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The street beginning with the Church of Ireland and the hotels is a gem. The terrace with "The Ship" looked bright and fresh. The terrace of houses embracing the Post Office are a delight while that building itself makes excellent use of primary colours. The Fishersman Hall is truly a jewel. It was freshly painted in primary black and white and featured excellent, fulsomely planted window boxes. The delightful thatched cottages opposite and on the way to the Strand Inn are especially attractive. The Strand Inn itself was bright, lively and inviting.

It is disappointing that there is no disabled access to the Public Toilets in this area. The Fire Station and the Health Centre were very well presented. At the Harbour, the Lifeboat Building was well painted, neat and orderly. The shopfronts overlooking the Harbour contributed bright colours and good lettering to an overall, very high presentational standard.

The Catholic Church at Killea had minor amounts of weeds at the base of the front-facing wall. The National Schools - 1895 and the new 1975 school were well presented. However, there was an untidy feel to the foreground outside the wall of the new school.

LITTER CONTROL

Dunmore is a very busy centre and accordingly, needs a well thought through and resourced litter management programme. On the day of adjudication, litter management was of a very high order. Appropriate litter bins were sited at the Public Toilet and by Councillors Strand, and elsewhere throughout the village. It is important that suitable servicing arrangements are established, especially at the height of the Summer to cater for the heavy usage of these facilities.

TIDINESS

In general, the centre projects a delightful air of order and neatness. Signage within the village, wood walks, public toilets were all well painted and fresh looking with the exception of the "No Camping" sign at Councillors Strand which needs refurbishment. Disappointing weed growth was noted at the side of Dunmore Harbour House. The Harbour itself represents quite a challenge. The approach road is now a jumble of major works in progress while many established buildings need repainting and attention to storage of objects around them. On the Harbour Pier itself one would question the usefulness of some of the old metal containers, now rusting in this area. Those that are still in use could, if they were brightly painted, become a positive attribute rather than the present eyesore. The practise at Waterford Harbour Sailing Club of storing used kegs outside their door should be discouraged. Dunmore East Adventure Centre made good use of flags to brighten its office area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

On the approach road from Waterford the housing developments on the right hand side ought to remove all the spoil from their entrance area. Ard na Coille featured well cut communal grassed areas. Individual house owners are encouraged to improve the number and planting of window boxes coupled with individual garden displays. Houses on the Ballymacaw road achieved a very high standard. The Coast road approach featured some very splendid houses but, in a few cases the entrance areas outside their gates had become very cluttered with weeds.

The potentially very imposing terrace behind the Strand Inn - on the way to Councillors Strand - could with a uniform painting programme become much more significant. The residential housing estate on the Killea road although featuring some good individual gardens was disfigured by substantial amounts of spoil on the side of the road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Signage on approach roads, both village nameplate and speed limit signs were freshly painted and grass around them suitably cut back. The "twinning" and "Welcome to Dunmore" signs were similarly well presented. The road at the side of the Church of Ireland had a disappointing amount of spoil. The "Dunmore East" sign on the Coast road was very battered and while the speed limits signs on the Killea road were well presented there is a need to cut back the grass and weeds from their base.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Dunmore East is a delightful seaside resort which has the benefit of a substantial stock of imposing dwellings, many located in mature, interesting gardens. It has a growing stock of thatched cottages and

an accelerating presence of landscaped holiday village developments. Despite this rich inventory of resources, some aspects of the village's presentation do need attention and should be the subject of a 3 or 4 year programme to accentuate still further, the undoubted charm of this delightful resort.