

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNMANWAY**
County : **CORK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	20	21
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	184	179

Dunmanway, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Dunmanway is one of the few in over 700 centres entered in the competition which has not yet produced a 3 to 5 year Development Plan. Such a plan has proved successful in other towns identifying priorities and scheduling improvements over the period selected (rather than attempting everything at once as heretofore), with a consequent rise in standards. While the standard in Dunmanway is already very high, it would be good to see effective steps taken to move even higher. The local support provided to the Association, and the co-operative nature of the relationship with official bodies, continues to impress. Thank you for your map, which is very easy to follow.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

While the chief buildings of architectural interest are, as always, well maintained, it is worth adding a word of praise to a number of commercial premises which are unusually well presented and may not have been given due recognition in the context of the competition. Among these are McCarthys Furniture Factory, Atkins Timber Works, Estuary Filling Station, Parkway Hotel, Cash & Carry, S.C.A., E.S.B., P.S.K., etc. However, OLearys needs some work. Several business premises in the town centre were photographed for consideration under the awards for shopfronts - including O Donobhain, Buisteir. Those where there are no plastic or mass-produced signs, an absence of window stickers, and where the upper parts of the building are as well presented as at street level, are most likely to succeed. A charming and architecturally valuable Georgian Gate-lodge on the Clonakilty Road, Underhill, is in dire need of restoration.

LANDSCAPING

The most impressive piece of actual landscaping is at the Park road end of Sackville Street, but maintenance of open spaces such as the Golf Course, Sports Fields and the area round the Swimming Pool is first class (the metal sculpture here is in need of painting). Smaller areas of planting, including lower gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets, were looking extremely colourful on adjudication day. It is good to see such care taken with roses.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river at Sackville Place is much better cared for than at the town centre (see below), though garden refuse had been dumped on its bank. The lakeside seemed to have been improved since last year - there is a judicious mixture of the formal garden, on the street side, and the natural landscape, on the rural side (entrance barrier at the car park was rusty). Swans and ducks were seen. A future project might be to erect an illustrated sign identifying the local flora and fauna. As remarked by last years adjudicator, the river and lake have enormous potential for sensitive development.

LITTER CONTROL

Not a high point in Dunmanway, unfortunately,. While the principal streets were comparatively litter free on adjudication day, there was disposable litter on St Marys Hill and in the nearby estate. Everyone agrees that litter should not be dropped in the first place, but there are no litter bins to help the situation in this area. There was some litter by the lake; and over sixty pieces of litter were seen in the river by the central bridge.

TIDINESS

Dunmanway is fortunate in having a lower incidence than most large centres of unsightly signage, wires and poles, though this scene is still not perfect. The inner section of the Maxol garage needed tidying up. Two very rusty corrugated iron roofs are visible in back areas from St Marys Hill. Weeds were under control on adjudication day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Dunmanway is strong on attractively kept housing. The new estate opposite the Swimming Pool has come on very well, but grass verges needed attention here on adjudication day. Older houses are also very well looked after - for example, beautifully painted terraces were noted in Castle Street. Painting in strong traditional colours is also a feature of the estate off St Marys Hill, though the concrete approach ramps do not match up. A pity to see PVC glazing bars introduced on some older houses. Very pleasant individual homes and gardens were seen on the outskirts.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Paving and surfaces are good. The approach road from Bantry, and the approach via Castle Street, are impressive. A car park on Kilbarry road was untidy, but the town centre car park was very well looked after this year. If the toilets here are those adversely mentioned by last years adjudicator, they have been splendidly improved. New walls, at the R.C. Church and at the housing estate on the Bantry road, are first class.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A pleasant, prosperous and generally well ordered town.