

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DUNSHAUGHLIN**  
County : **MEATH**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>180</b>

## **Dunshaughlin, County Meath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the information given with the application form. The map was very useful. It can form the basis for a development plan which should be submitted with next year's form. The plan for the town over the next few years was good and achievable. The village has become a town over the last number of years with the dramatic increase in houses and population. It is still essentially a rural town and aspects of planting should reflect this especially on the approach roads and outskirts. Well done of the work completed in the past year.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are a couple of fine buildings in Dunshaughlin, notably the new library and Catty Neds which has been restored sympathetically - well done. It is nice to see the old church in use and the landscape and restoration is finely done. The Community College is well presented though could some areas incorporate wildflower areas or perhaps the creation of different habitats to encourage wildlife. The new school is well presented. O'Brien's Pharmacy requires repainting. The Veterinary Clinic had a nice display of window boxes; O'Toole's, Foley's Forge and Foley's Auctioneers looked well (though a corrugated roof beside the latter required repainting). More traditional signage could be considered for a number of other premises on the street or shops fronts such as BradCo, Cityway Stores and DBH Hire. The shops beside the well painted SuperValu were all well presented. An Sabin makes a striking presence in the main street. The industrial estate is well planted with trees though a couple of dead ones required removing and replacing. The grassy area on one side also required cutting back. A sign at the Maxol station requires replacing.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Landscaping was varied. Further presentation of floral displays could be considered for some premises on the main street. One colour or complementary colours tend to make great impact. Some dead trees need to be removed from around the estates and others required maintenance such as the removal of side branches and weeds from bases. The landscaped picnic area on the Dublin road looked well.. The Committee are to commended on the recommendation to use native rather than exotic species in planting. It was nice to see the use of climbing plants up some bare walls.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Unfortunately, the adjudicators could not find the Red Bog. They tried up the lane though perhaps the access to it is not easy to find. If it is to become an amenity area, it is important that it should be signposted. It does seem as though it is rich in fauna. Has a survey involving an expert been carried out? However, if the plans for it go ahead as a dump, other areas could be considered

such as the Lagore Bog. The planting of trees and shrubs around the town that encourage both insects and birds should be considered where possible.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was little litter in evidence on the day of judging - well done. The litter that was in evidence could be found in the estates.

## **TIDINESS**

The town was generally tidy on the day of adjudication though some unkempt grassy areas in the estates and on the approach roads detracted for the overall tidiness.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There were a great number of estates and these were all visited by the adjudicators. College Park was well kept, though there were a couple of weedy areas in Ardlea and a couple of cherry trees required replacing. There is a nice stone wall restored opposite this estate. Could the central amenity green in the Downs be used for facilities or landscaping? The wall required repainting and the side shoots need removing from some trees. Greenane estate is newly landscaped and the new trees will look well when mature. Supple Park was well presented. The huge expanse of grass at College Close should really also be considered for facilities or planting - perhaps a small grove of native deciduous trees or even a managed wildflower area. Grass needed to be removed from the base of trees. Houses on the Dublin and Ratoath roads were generally well kept though there was a deficit of hanging baskets on the Ratoath road. Hillview Estate was nicely landscaped and the pump was well maintained.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Dublin approach road could be cut back better. The huge amount of traffic must make it difficult to keep the town tidy and parking is certainly difficult. The Picnic area on the Dublin road looks well. The Sword directional sign in the village required replacing. The back road to Gaulston House requires cutting and tidying back. Out on the Ratoath road the flowers are visible in the short term - perhaps some self seeding wildflowers or some native shrubs would look well and be less difficult to maintain. At the Dunshaughlin sign the grass needed cutting back as did the grass on the Navan road where the "do not pass sign" was being obscured.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This village which is expanding at a fast rate has undertaken quite an amount of work over the past year. The lack of litter for such a highly populated area is an achievement. Traffic management is important especially with the increase in commuters from Navan and Kells coming through the town. Best of luck.