

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DUNMORE**  
County : **GALWAY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	18	17
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16	16
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>166</b>

## **Dunmore, County Galway**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

This adjudicator had only passed through Dunmore in the past, and found the experience of observing the town in detail on this occasion fascinating. This is almost entirely due to reading the contents of your absorbing Village Renewal Plan, which is full of information as well as advice. It should prove very helpful in your future enterprise, and its four authors are to be heartily congratulated.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The street pattern of Dunmore is particularly interesting - a rectangle containing a square. The modern church and its grounds are very well maintained. A well kept school was noted on Sion Hill. The smartly repainted Garda station gives life to that corner where opposite, unfortunately, there exists one of the two clusters of derelict buildings. The other is in the Green, and while there are minor incidences of urban decay elsewhere (most obviously in the Square) these are the most eye-catching. The solution to the former seems an excellent one - it is to be hoped that the special housing will respect the scale of the originals and as far as possible reproduce their charm - the result will be eagerly looked forward to next year. The presence of the Abbey is accentuated by the landscaping. The Community Centre would benefit by a freshening up with paint. The Bank of Ireland is well presented. An Piobaire was photographed and will be entered in the national competition.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The area around the Abbey is the most impressive, and was looking very trim and colourful at the time of adjudication. Incidental planting throughout the town gives a visual lift wherever it is placed. The circular beds are particularly pleasing. The opening of the new Golf Course will be a milestone date; the planting of the young trees there is a most important element; presumably the entrance will be tidied up in due course. The grounds of the Community School are spacious and well grassed. The restoration of cobbles, the archway, sundial and the general embellishments between the Green and the Square can probably be taken as 'Landscaping' and all add to the achievement.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The comments of last year's adjudicator remain pertinent. You might also consider, as an addition to the Plan, inviting schoolgoers to undertake a project identifying and making an inventory of the native flora and fauna, for publication.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was an appreciable amount of disposable litter in the Square and Barrack Street. Do not give up your efforts. Several sharp and well publicised fines should help.

## **TIDINESS**

Kerbside weed was seen in some places, especially on Castle Street, and verges were also unkempt in this area. Mass-produced signage on shops, particularly projecting signs, create an untidy effect. So do overhead wires - when you have accounted for the numerous improvements proposed in the Plan, the expensive matter of ducting cables underground could be taken up with the proper authorities. However, the main contributor to lack of tidiness in Dunmore is the derelict buildings, and a real start to solving this problem has been signalled.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most street houses are well looked after. There are several very pleasant homes on approach roads and on the Green, many with pleasant gardens.

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

Approach roads are good - some untidiness has been noted above on the Milltown road. The new footpath and stone wall on the Sligo road has been very favourably noted. Surfaces are good throughout the town. The car parks at the GAA and the Church are well maintained. (A pity parking is allowed in the Square - this fine space would look infinitely better if pedestrianised). The Credit Union street signs are excellent.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

An attractively laid out town with an air of activity. While a considerable amount has already been achieved, it is clear that more striking improvements are still to come. Marks in all categories have to be given on work completed rather than on aspirations.