

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DUNDALK**  
County : **LOUTH**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>194</b>

## **Dundalk, County Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Dundalk Urban District Council deserves praise for the comprehensive development plans submitted and the provision of very helpful documentation and maps. The special initiatives undertaken to mark the 40th Anniversary of Tidy Towns are a great idea. "Improve Our Town" competition and the new Amenity Grant Scheme are valuable incentives to encourage the involvement of residents in Tidy Town projects. Dundalk appears to be enjoying a period of increasing prosperity with a lot of construction taking place. The new County Council offices appears to be a substantial development and the plans for a swimming pool will provide a very valuable amenity in this large urban area. Parking in the town centre is a problem which needs to be addressed in future plans as Dundalk continues to grow. More pedestrianised areas and off street parking would enhance this busy town.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Dundalk includes a variety of interesting building types. The presentation of the main public buildings is good. The imposing Courthouse dominates the elegant Market Square. The Town Hall's floral display of hanging baskets and window boxes gives a nice splash of colour on Crowe Street. St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Library and County Museum Complex were all admired. The pubs in Anne Street and Seatown are attractively presented. The restoration of Seatown Castle will considerably enhance the Seatown area. Park Street and Clanbrassil Street offer many interesting shop fronts, both old and new. Brag, Mackins, Austin Reid/Erte all looked very well. Dearys, McKeown's Pub, R.Q. O'Neills, Ulster Bank and the Post Office were also well presented. The new bi-lingual name plates are very attractive and the sculpture pieces in Clanbrassil Street are an interesting addition to the streetscape. The fine P.J. Carrolls shopfront in Church Street is in poor condition and should receive attention before it deteriorates any further. Bridge Street is an area which would benefit from re-development of its derelict and run down buildings.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping of the Demesne park has achieved good results, and this along with the trees at the Square is a most attractive sight as one comes into the town centre. Opportunities to plant similar trees should certainly be availed of in other streets and especially in pedestrian areas. The many flower containers around the town add much colour, most notably at the spacious paved area in front of the fountain. Flower beds and hanging baskets also add to the overall appearance. The work on the Rampart River is a worthwhile project. The landscaped areas

along the banks would benefit from more tree or shrub planting. The Fyffes premises opposite has been well planted and shows how effective certain combinations can be. The grounds of the Carrolls factory on the Dublin Road are very well maintained and enhance this stretch of road. The Finnabair Industrial Estate is also well presented but could benefit from more group planting of native trees.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Ice House Hill Park is a valuable amenity for Dundalk and provides an interesting habitat for wildlife. Provision of a little more natural vegetation around the pond would be pleasant and provide opportunities for wildlife. More tree planting along the wall at the back of the park could be undertaken. The riverside walk at the Castletown River will provide an excellent opportunity for observing the bird population of Dundalk Bay, which appears very extensive. Additional planting to screen off the town dump across the river is recommended. The adjacent St. Helens Park provides further wildlife habitats. Perhaps some of the local schools could be involved in a project to identify the species living in these areas. Their findings could be produced in a leaflet or information board, sited at a suitable location in the parks or on the walk.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

It is understandable that a town the size of Dundalk has a problem with litter, in spite of the control measures you have implemented. Areas that needed particular attention were along Clanbrassil Street, in front of the Courthouse, and the corner of Earl Street opposite the take away. There was quite a lot of rubbish dumped in the Rampart River and strewn along its banks. The grass margins opposite Dundalk Port also had a lot of litter scattered around the shrubs and along the fencing.

## **TIDINESS**

The construction work taking place in Park Street and at the P.J. Carrolls Development detracts from the overall appearance of the town at present. However, this is only a temporary situation and will be resolved over time. The unsightly fly posting at the wall to the front of the P.J. Carrolls development should be removed.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The "Improve Our Town Competition" is a good way of encouraging residents to maintain their gardens and estates to a high standard. The results of their hard work are apparent in many of the well presented estates in Dundalk. Willowgrove, O'Hanlon Park and Fatima amongst others, were looking well. More planting of native trees and large shrubs would improve most estates. The importance of preserving mature trees and hedgerows in new developments cannot be over emphasised. The trees to the front of the apartments opposite the Kelly Monument are a good example. Newer estates like the

development along Tom Bellew Avenue and also Lennonstown Manor offer plenty of scope for tree and shrub planting projects. The many well tended individual gardens and window boxes around the town do much to enhance its overall appearance.

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

The approach roads to Dundalk are quite well presented in general. The well landscaped grounds of the Carrolls factory adds to the attractiveness of the Dublin road approach. The gardens along this road contribute further. The floral display at Rosemount Bed & Breakfast was especially noted. Verges require some attention on the Ardee and Carrick roads, but again individual gardens enhance the overall appearance. The by-pass is very well presented but more planting to screen off the town dump would enhance your efforts. The Ballymascanlon Roundabout should be quite impressive with time. The old Newry Road has some vacant sites which would benefit from a general tidy up. The entrance to the dump also needs to be upgraded as the previous pleasant artistic efforts here are well worn. Again the many attractive gardens on this road, especially around the cemetery, enhance this approach.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Dundalk has undergone a significant improvement in its visual appearance over the last few years. The re-furbishment programmes in the town centre have been very successful and street scapes are much improved. The many attractive commercial premises give a pleasant overall impression. However, heavy traffic and car parking still threaten to detract from this, and litter is an ongoing problem which requires further monitoring and control.