

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNGARVAN**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	26	24
Landscaping	40	28	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	23	20
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	25
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	206	191

Dungarvan, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and very detailed map of the town together with a copy of the 3 year work programme of the Dungarvan Tidy Towns Committee 1996 - 1998. It was very much appreciated. It is great to see the level of co-operation with the Dungarvan UDC and the Museum Society. No doubt you have or will liaise with the ESB, Telecom Eireann, the Regional Tourism Authority and the National Rehabilitation Board who will be only too delighted to be of whatever assistance and help they can. Your Committee is small in number and you carry a huge workload. Perhaps you might be able to recruit more members which will help to spread the huge workload you have taken on. You may be able to get a member from each of the residents associations throughout the town. It would help enormously to have a contact person for each of the housing estates and residential areas. I note that you are involved with the UDC in setting up housing estate management committees in two estates in the town. This is a most innovative idea and will prove to be of great assistance to you.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is good to see that you are a sub-Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and liaising with them on a continuous basis regarding the appearances of commercial properties in the town. The commercial properties overall are maintained very well. There is some plastic signage in evidence and no doubt over the coming years that will be replaced by more traditional looking shopfronts. The hotels are maintained in good condition with Lawlor's Hotel in the town centre, looking particularly attractive. It is also nice to see Irish language signage being used over the shops and they include An Poc ar Buille, Bean A'Leana and An Gabha. Well done to all those who replaced their shopfronts during the year and removed the plastic signage. The entrance to the GAA pitch was finished off to a very high standard with lovely stone piers and nice signage over the gate. Part of the Shopwell building would need some screening and suggest perhaps that trees be planted here. The schools were maintained to a high standard with Ard Scoil na Deise looking particularly well. At the primary school in Abbeyside, the grounds were very well kept but the wall and building does need freshening up. The churches and their grounds were well maintained. The Market House did need to be painted. I note from the information included with your application that it was constructed in 1691 and is one of the oldest buildings in the town, perhaps it could be restored to its original stone if it is in good condition underneath and if it was originally unplastered. The commercial banks were very well maintained and presented to a high standard and that included the Bank of Ireland which appeared to be freshly painted and the AIB Bank. When all building at the quayside is completed it should enhance that whole area. No doubt the developers have plans to landscape the entire

area. One does look forward to seeing the completed job. The Grotto at the junction of the Youghal road by the roundabout was well maintained and had a lovely selection of shrubs and plants. Perhaps you might, if you have some time, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, do an audit of all the commercial buildings in the town and perhaps a gentle reminder could be given to commercial property owners who could do better to help you with your task in hand.

LANDSCAPING

Your proposals for landscaping are to be commended. When this is completed and as the trees and shrubs mature it will certainly enhance all areas of the town. All open areas are kept very well. The roundabout on the Youghal road had a lovely colourful selection of flowers planted there. Well done to all concerned. The open space at the Causeway was clean, neat and tidy. The open green spaces by Abbeyside Church again was well maintained but would need a little more attention around the edges where there was some weeds and grass. The trees planted at George's Court are maturing nicely but the grass was a little untidy and did need a cut. The landscaping throughout is of a very high standard and in most cases the species of trees and shrubs selected is excellent.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As a Tidy Towns Committee you have an important role to play in protecting, enhancing and increasing the wildlife value of your Community. Your plans for this are extremely good. Areas such as Abbeyside Beach and at the Causeway are ideal areas as a starting point to identify the wildlife habitat of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Perhaps you might invite a local wildlife expert in your Community to get involved and provide you with the expertise which would help you enormously. When you have completed this exercise, to make it more enjoyable and accessible for the members of your Community, why not provide information signs (bilingually where appropriate). Additional guidance is available from the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland. It is good to see that under the directive of the Conservation of Wildbird E.C. Regulations that Dungarvan Harbour was designated as a special protection area for wildbirds and the U.D.C. are to be commended for their plans to eliminate all untreated discharges into the Harbour by the construction of a sewage treatment plant. Properly managed natural areas and wildlife would add greatly to the Dungarvan area.

LITTER CONTROL

Dungarvan is a large town and it is difficult to control litter throughout all the areas. You as a Committee are taking the litter problem very seriously and have taken appropriate steps to deal with the situation. The U.D.C. launch of their action against litter is to be commended. Your proposed meeting with the various

school principals and business proprietors, in order to get a cohesive response, is a very good one. Students in schools have a huge contribution to make in keeping their town tidy and litter-free. Overall the litter situation was very good. There was no huge or vast amounts to be seen on the day of adjudication. A few bits were scattered on the by-pass coming from the Youghal road and continuing out towards the Waterford road. Some under the seating on the N25, a few odd bits on the streets in the town and on the road to the hospital. Your campaign certainly appears to be working on this occasion. Well done and keep up the pressure on the Community to play their part in making Dungarvan litter-free.

TIDINESS

There was an absence of fly-posting throughout the town and very little graffiti in general. The control of weed growth at kerbs and at the base of buildings and walls was extremely good throughout. Your bottle and textile banks are indeed to be welcomed and this adjudicator is delighted that these have been very successful for you. It is a very good idea to extend this to the other carpark. The location, screening and signage is important when providing this type of facility. The approaches to the town and the town itself by and large had a tidy look about it. No doubt there is more to be done and will be done by your hard working Committee.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new housing estates both private and Local Authority housing are presented to a very high standard throughout. The developers are to be commended for this. No doubt over the years hopefully they will continue to be maintained to this high standard. In the older housing estates the boundary walls and palings do need attention in some instances but again by and large these houses are very well kept. The older stock of housing throughout the town is well maintained overall but do need some brightening up. Perhaps window boxes would help enormously here in this situation. The older Local Authority housing estates are making a good effort to bring up the standard of maintenance throughout. All the residents are to be congratulated on having a pride in presenting their properties in the most attractive and best possible way. Do work on in the coming years in setting up Committees on each estate to help you with the workload, to improve the appearance still further and to maintain the open green spaces in good order and litter-free.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Waterford and Cork are maintained in excellent condition. Well done to the U.D.C. for presenting the entrances and exits to the town in the best possible way. The trees in these areas, the approach roads and on the by-pass, are maturing very nicely. The grass was neat and trim and the verges were perfectly maintained. Again well done. The Causeway Bridge is a delightful architectural feature and a nice job has been

done in its restoration. The car parks are well presented and were clean and tidy. The advance signage is very good and most helpful to visitors to the town. No doubt you will deal with general signage within the town including the street nameplates where they do not exist.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town itself is a very busy place and the Square is the hub of activity in the town. The business Community are making great efforts to present their properties in the best possible light. No doubt over the coming years more will follow suit. The Tidy Towns Committee and the U.D.C. have contributed in no small way to the overall good appearance of Dungarvan. There is still some work to be done and Dungarvan has huge potential to make great progress in this Competition. Do keep up the good work. Well done to all concerned !