

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNHILL**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	22
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	14	12
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	175	163

Dunhill, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and detailed map of the Dunhill village area. It was most helpful to the adjudicator on the day. You are also to be congratulated on the detailed plan submitted by your Committee which will help you achieve the desired standard in the years to come. Well done to all concerned ! It is good to see that you work with the Waterford County Council, FAS, the ESB and Telecom Eireann. The adjudicator would also suggest that you contact the local Tourism Officer and the National Rehabilitation Board who will be only too glad to be of assistance and help to your Committee. You have outlined very well the objectives to be attained over the period of this plan. You do have a very small Committee and perhaps you might include other organisations and clubs in the area to help you with the huge task in hand. Your plan is a very good guide for your Committee and is something which can be built on over the years. Perhaps you might also bear in mind the need to promote greater visibility of the Irish language in place names, signs, etc.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Dunhill has its own particular history and social tradition. It is good that the Community and individuals understand and respect the character of your village because this will ensure that your plans for the years ahead will be carried out. The Church is very well maintained and is clean and tidy throughout. The Bell Tower is a lovely feature in the village and when the lower part of the building is restored it should look very well indeed. From your plan the adjudicator sees that you are going to locate and install an old style riveted gate beside it which is to be commended. The old graveyard continues to be maintained quite well. At the graveyard, across the road from the Church, the grass needs to be cut, both at the entrance and inside. The School is well presented except for some weeds in the car park area at the base of the wall. The School boundary walls do need painting as does the older part of the building. The new part of the School looked well. The Community Hall is well maintained but weeds at the base of the walls outside the hedging need attention. Harney's Bar continues to be well presented.

LANDSCAPING

It is noted that you are awaiting the report of the landscaper which your Committee has engaged. No doubt his comments will be a huge help to you in improving and maintaining the landscaping of the village. There was some delightful planting of two different types of fuchsia species along the wall and continuing towards the Grotto. There was another lovely mixture of plants and shrubs. The Grotto area was maintained to a very high standard - again there was a delightful mixture of shrubs and planting, etc. The

railing had some small spots of rust on it and it would help its maintenance to have it painted for next year. The planting of the heather beds by the School is to be commended and when mature should enhance this area. The open space at the exchange building there does need attention, (the grass needed to be cut). The landscaper no doubt will have some interesting plans for this area. The School grounds continue to be well maintained and the shrubs and trees are maturing nicely.

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. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your area and see what species of animals, birds and insects these attract. You will be delighted and surprised at discovering the number and extent of these habitats, (you did mention in your form an increased awareness of bats in the Church). The Bell Tower and the graveyard could be areas where wildlife habitats continue to survive. If you need help in identifying local wildlife habitats and getting projects off the ground do invite your local environmental expert to get involved to advise you and provide you with the expertise you will require. Additional guidance is available in the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland leaflet, (this group will be only too glad to be of whatever assistance they can be to your Committee).

LITTER CONTROL

Your management and control of litter throughout the village is very good. There was just some small pieces observed at the entrance to the housing estate. Your efforts to promote litter awareness in the Shop and in the School is paying off. The provision of litter bins in the right place and regular clean-up campaigns does help to keep litter at a minimum in the village.

TIDINESS

The control of weeds at kerbs is good but some weeds and grass at the base of buildings does need to be tackled by individual property owners or with the assistance of the Committee. There is an absence of fly posting and graffiti throughout the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate is maintained in good condition. Attention needs to be given to some of the railings and boundary walls where they exist. The open space at the entrance to the estate was neat and the grass was cut. One tree there may need to be replaced and the adjudicator suggests that it would be replaced with a native hardwood - it appears to be dying underneath. The private houses in the area, including the two thatched cottages, continue to be well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The parking area across from the Grotto had some weeds and grass growth. This would need attention. The approach roads are well maintained and are neatly cut and tidy looking. Do take care of the grass at the footpath from the School to the housing estate. The stone wall across from the School is a nice feature but the base does need to be cleaned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Great work is being done by a small Committee and hopefully, in the years ahead, your plans v will bear fruit. The village has great potential to improve its marking and to do very well in the future. Well done and continued success to all the Committee members !