

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DUNFANAGHY**  
County : **DONEGAL**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	35
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>240</b>

## **Dunfanaghy, County Donegal**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Planning for the future is impressive, judging by your response to the questionnaire. It may be another year or even two before there is a significant rise in marking - though the present increase is very creditable indeed for a town at the top and most difficult level of the competition. So many projects are in progress, or awaiting completion, it is not possible to assess them just yet - though there may be a second adjudication in August, by which time some may have come to fruition. (The major projects at the new lake and the paupers' graveyard are well outside the 30mph signs, generally taken as the judging limit, but they have been assessed because mentioned in your documentation). Your map was very helpful indeed.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

As usual, the three churches are beautifully maintained. The Workhouse is a splendid project: it hardly needs pointing out that buildings to the rear detract somewhat - the rusty corrugated iron roof is the most obvious section. The Market House has been considerably improved. The two hotels were looking very smart on adjudication day. (It is not clear what is meant about the gate pillars of the Garda Barracks). There are still far too many plastic and mass-produced signs - which cheapen the streetscape.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Planting and floral arrangements impress here and there throughout the village. The well-nurtured grounds of the churches add tremendously to their localities. The green area near the hotels seems to be much better looked after than last year. Young trees were favourably noted - if those at the holidays homes on the Port na Blagh road are recent, congratulations on the work. If the Paupers', or Famine, Graveyard, is taken under this heading, its careful maintenance deserves very special note here; this adjudicator thought it a very moving memorial, most imaginatively and discreetly conceived.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The clearing of dead trees, and the field at the Chapel Road cottages, have been worthwhile projects. The informational decorative mural of bird species at the new lake greatly adds to the interest of this attractive area, where the preservation of the natural environment has not been overtaken by over-enthusiastic grooming. A fine initiative.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The people of Dunfanaghy have obviously seen to it, that there is

no significant litter problem. Congratulations.

## **TIDINESS**

The over-abundance of mass-produced projecting signage, and the overhead wires, do have a deleterious effect - these are matters which can only be improved in the long term, but they are worth pursuing for the whole village. The mark, however, is very much higher than the average for this category.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many of the older street houses are beautifully kept - one, recently painted in green and cream is a good example. The restoration of a country house beside the new lake was viewed with admiration, and its completion eagerly awaited. A pity that a fine Victorian house opposite the Church of Ireland appears to be boarded up; it is a real shame that the superb 4-bay 2-storied house next Coflins' bar is derelict: presumably there is local concern about this. Houses in the Bog Road/Cottage Row area are generally well looked after, though there are some exceptions. Some houses overlooking the Golf Course have really special gardens which greatly enhance the approach to Dunfanaghy from that side.

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

The important surfacing and paving works at Main Street and the Harbour had not been completed on adjudication day, nor the promised ducting of wires. It looks as if there will be a huge improvement here before long. The exterior of the WC had been painted. Surfaces are very poor on some of the back roads, though the main road is excellent.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A beautifully set village, with an attractive streetscape, several fine buildings and some major historical sites, where several improvements are under way.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/99)**

The tabular format of your workplan is most appropriate as progress can be measured at a glance. It was wonderful to see so many improvements, particularly under the *wildlife and natural amenities* heading. This adjudicator is particularly anxious to see the completion of the square/harbour area as it is the focus of the village centre. Regrettably, litter still seems to be somewhat of a problem. The fine stone walls with well trimmed hedges seen in many parts of the village are always admired. It is believed that there is considerable scope for tree planting along the lefthand side of the Creeslough approach. The rather bleak carpark opposite the Garda Station might be improved by planting at least one tree inside the wall at the junction. As commented last year a bolder colour scheme would benefit the village centre.