

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNKINEELY**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	15	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	11	--
Residential Areas	30	17	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	151	--

Dunkineely, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome back to the Tidy Towns Competition. Dunkineely was looking very pleasant on adjudication day. Do not be disappointed if you find the marking comparatively low in the county in your year of return: a base mark has to be decided, on which it is hoped that a significant increase can be built on next year. An essential for success is a triangular co-operative effort between the committee, the community in general, and the official bodies - in the latter case you have made a very good start by contacting the Local Authority, the Tourism organisation, and FAS. Normally the area judged is that inside the 30mph signs on approach roads, but some committees prefer to extend this - in the case of Dunkineely you may wish to include the areas of the Heritage Centre and Church of Ireland church - the latter is the most architecturally important building in the neighbourhood. In general, avoid plastic signage, building in concrete blocks, corrugated iron roofs, post-and-wire fencing. Next year on your map please mark and name all sites where improvements have been made over the previous twelve months.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The most interesting building in the village centre is the Methodist Church, which is very neatly kept. The factory on the Donegal road is well presented. There are a number of attractive business premises - among them McShane's, Mac's Bar, Ferguson's and the Dunkineely Furniture Store. The Florist's, with its bright display, adds tremendous visual interest. Plastic and mass-produced signage should be avoided.

LANDSCAPING

The picnic area is attractive, and could do with more planting of shrubs and trees. There is an ideal site for extensive landscaping on all sides of the intersection at the Community Hall: this would give an excellent introduction to those arriving in Dunkineely from the Donegal side. Trees and shrubs are to be preferred to bedding plants because of their longevity and year-round interest (though groups of annuals will be appropriate in the summer months). The best advice as to what will suit the soil and climate should be sought locally. You are right in inviting householders to display windowboxes and baskets.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Situated between headland and highland, the species of bird, animal and plant life must be abundant. A start might be made with a survey, taking advice from whatever experts are available. A school project might be envisaged, with pupils listing and identifying species, perhaps in a competition or in the holding of an exhibition of drawings. A nominal mark has been given here, pending a start.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter on adjudication day congratulations. This is a vexing issue for everybody, but it is one which needs eternal vigilance.

TIDINESS

Verges were very weedy on the Donegal side of the village on adjudication day. Kerbside weed was virtually absent. There was considerable weed in the side road to Anchor Lodge. Plastic signage has already been mentioned. As a (very) long-term project, the ducting of cables and removal of poles would make an enormous improvement, as has been seen elsewhere. In spite of the above, the village has a generally tidy air.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the older houses are maintained with real pride. Among these are a yellow house next to the Central Stores, and a large house opposite Mace. Cottages, especially those with dormers, on the south side of the Killybegs road looked very well indeed. A small estate with orange woodwork is well kept. Individual homes in Castle View are well looked after; residents might make themselves responsible for removing kerbside weed - a very easy job. All the houses as you climb the hill from Donegal are well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The surface of the main road, and paving in the village, is good. The open space at the Community Hall badly needs resurfacing. Traffic calming devices should be installed by the Local Authority at each end of the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A beautifully situated village with great potential for developments which respect the building traditions of the neighbourhood and the natural environment.