

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUN LAOGHAIRE**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	18
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	192	190

Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations on the work you have carried out over the past year. It is unfortunate that you are still not in a position to prepare a five-year plan as we have seen the results from the successful conclusion of such plans in other areas this year. The successful implementation of a development plan would give some more structure to your work and include more of the local community. Your co-operation with the Parks Department of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is to be commended, indeed has borne some very worthwhile results. We look forward to the completion of the Pavilion Development next year and accept that this development along with the works on Adelaide Street made your task all the more difficult this year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

By and large, the shops of Dun Laoghaire looked well on the day of adjudication. We noted some lovely flower boxes outside the Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre and outside the Church on Royal Marine Road. Sean McManus Jewellers, Crate and Barrell and Smiths were beautifully maintained buildings, however, as mentioned in last years report the Post Office on Georges Street could do with a repaint. There were also some nice flower boxes outside the Community College but some rubbish needs to be removed from this area. The Portview Hotel is greatly improved and we commend their efforts in providing a bright, colourful, flower boxes on the route from the harbour building to the town centre. This effort was further enhanced by the special efforts made on the Town Hall. The new Bloomfields Shopping Centre and the DART station were somewhat of a disappointment with quite a bit of rubbish surrounding them, including beer cans and some graffiti.

LANDSCAPING

There are some beautifully landscaped areas in Dun Laoghaire but unfortunately many of these have suffered at the hands of the graffiti artists or the litter bugs in the area. The area outside the Terminal Building of the Ferryport continues to be a welcoming area to the town and the mosaic, trees and flower boxes brighten up the area. We noted the new trees planted on Crofton Road and the beautiful flower boxes and baskets. There was also some nice shrubbery outside the District Court, although unfortunately it was strewn with litter, and we noted some new plantings outside the Garda Station mentioned in last year's report. We would encourage you to include an environmental programme for the harbour in your development plan.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Dun Laoghaire has the benefit of being situated in a wonderful location beside the sea, which of course is a natural habitat for wildlife. We would encourage you to keep this coastal area, including the pier, clean and free of abandoned junk and rubbish. We were delighted to see a number of bird species in evidence on the day of adjudication and work should be carried out to encourage this further. The People's Park

again looked very well and perhaps the installation of some bird tables/boxes would be a welcome and attractive addition to this wonderful local facility. We would strongly encourage the committee to prepare and implement an actual plan of action or environmental programme to further maintain and enhance the natural amenities and wildlife of the area.

LITTER CONTROL

We support you in your application to the Council requesting the more stringent application of their Litter Control Strategy. The approach streets e.g. Corrig Avenue, Library Road and Patrick Street to Georges Street Lower/Upper had quite a bit of litter as you approached the main thoroughfare. We would encourage you to place some litter bins at these junctions in an effort to curb this. There was rubbish close to the County Council Offices and surrounding the DART station also, which was unfortunate given the public nature of these buildings. The entrance to Bloomfield Shopping Centre had also quite a bit of litter thrown about.

TIDINESS

Once again this year we note how difficult it is to keep your town tidy when there is so much development work and building construction in progress. We were however very disappointed to see so much graffiti and flyposting prevalent in Dun Laoghaire. The rail bridge from Marine Terrace to the Peoples Park was particularly disappointing as public seating had been provided to make a nice public area. The Victorian Shelters on Queens Road are in need of a repaint as there was much graffiti in evidence. We do however note your plans and would support your application to the Council to have them restored. Similarly at the junction of Mulgrave Street and Tivoli Road and Mellifont Avenue. Flyposting on ESB boxes on Glenageary Road Upper, Mellifont Avenue and Georges Street Upper also took from the streetscape. There were also a number of overflowing skips in Dun Laoghaire on the day of adjudication. While accepting the amount of development work taking place traders should try to avoid having the contents of skips spilling out on to the pavements e.g. Mulgrave Street, Croft Avenue, RNLI Boathouse.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some of the residential areas of Dun Laoghaire looked very well on the day of the adjudication. Corrig Avenue had some very nicely maintained gardens and on Mulgrave Terrace a lot of effort had been put into brightening up the houses. There was however some litter in evidence on Wolf Tone Avenue, Glenageary Road Upper and Cumberland Street. Convent Road was nicely maintained as was Cumberland Street. Do be careful of maintaining weed control at the kerbs.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to Dun Laoghaire looked well and some work has been done to make them more appealing. However, many of the street name signs were badly rusted and are in need of replacing . Things

such as broken glass on Adelaide Street and fallen trees on Library Road take from the overall appearance of the town. We did however note the hanging baskets along Georges Street Upper and Lower which added great colour to the town and also the great effort made by many shops to beautify the front of their buildings. Keep up the good work in encouraging this. Mariners Lane is in need of some attention as are some other lanes off the main street. We do hope that the long term plans for such lanes mentioned in your submission come to fruition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Congratulations to your committee on what has been achieved over the last year. Once again, we would encourage you to develop a 3-5 year plan which would give direction to your efforts. From your submission it is obvious that a lot of changes may be imminent in Dun Laoghaire, such as the proposed pedestrianisation etc., and many of these would help you in your efforts to promote a nicer and more pleasant environment. As you say yourself, partnership is the way forward so do try to get more people involved including the school children who could assist you in your work.