

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNKERRIN**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	31
The Built Environment	40	27	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	19
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	209

Dunkerrin, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The village character of Dunkerrin is obviously improved by the diversion of passing traffic to the National Primary By-Pass. This allows significant opportunities for environmental improvements to the village, much of which can be achieved through a Tidy Town's Committee. A three to five year Development Plan is often an important tool, both to inform outside third parties and the adjudicator of what is currently being done in the village and where problems lie. This is now a mandatory component of the Competition and accordingly this category is dropped in three marks to reflect the need for this document. This drop is not seen as long term, as no doubt such a plan will be prepared.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is really no change in this category from the previous year. However it must be pointed out that a mark has been deducted as a result of the poor quality in which the County Council has presented their works yard. It is hoped that the Tidy Towns can lobby for proper screening and environmental improvements to this works yard which severely detracts from one of the major entry points into the village. There should be screening on all sides of the compound; at present the yard does not recognise the gentle balance the village holds with the rural countryside surrounding it. The car park associated with the pub is a bit too visible from the by-pass road and requires some separation from the entry road for safety reasons. Thus increased definition of edges is a possible requirement in addition to increasing the screening that is already in place. At present the funeral home needs better integration with the surrounding environment. Overall the built environment is a simple element in this village because of its overall scale.

LANDSCAPING

In general this category scores very well as a result of the very strong rural countryside. The heather bed on the main road was surrounded by road improvement works and hopefully will not be damaged because of its importance to the village. The triangular section and rockery are both very pleasant elements.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

No comments were provided in the entry form and again this category could be developed in the three to five year

Development Plan. Villages of the scale of Dunkerrin often avail of opportunities through their close connection to the rural countryside; exploring these opportunities can assist in developing the character of the village. It is recommended that you review the material provided by the Department of the Environment for inclusion in a future Development Plan. Accordingly, for the present, this category has been dropped one mark.

LITTER CONTROL

There are very few source points for litter in this village and as such it is easy to keep the village very clean. On the day of adjudication there was no litter to be seen.

TIDINESS

Overall the village is very tidy as it is a very cohesive and unified development. Items that impact on the presentation of tidiness would be the County Council's work yards and perhaps the gravelled area between the school and the triangle where weeds are growing between the gravel; it would seem to make sense that grass be carried through this area so as to integrate with other grass verges near the school. Perhaps this could be examined.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The very few residential elements associated with this village are very well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The view of the village from the National Primary is excellent and provides a very important image as the motorist passes by. Again, as mentioned earlier, the County Council have not assisted in presenting the village to the passing public as the southern access road beside the Dunkerrin Arms severely mars the improvements made in this area. The other entry road to the north of the village is lovely but has a very difficult entry from the National Primary and perhaps needs better warning signs as the junction is quite obscure. The scale of plantings along this entry road very much increase the rural character of the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This village is very calm and restful. There is a very focussed centre and the contribution of the school to the built environment is important as can be seen by the very pleasant colour scheme. The markings provided this year by the adjudicator may seem to be a bit stringent. However, with the production of a Development Plan it is possible to acquire a new direction for works in the village

and resolve some of the outstanding issues. Best of luck in the future.