

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNGARVAN**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	211	206

Dungarvan, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for all the information you included with your entry form and for the detailed map which was most useful on adjudication day. However, could we ask that, in future, if you could supply a smaller map as the large one is most difficult to handle in the car. It was gratifying to read that you have the support of the ESB, Telecom Eireann, the Dungarvan Urban District Council, Residents Associations, etc and indeed the result of all this co-operation was to be seen on adjudication day. You received an in-depth report from last year's adjudicator so the following should be read in the context of that report and taken as comment on your progress since then.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Dungarvan has many fine public buildings all of which were well presented on adjudication day. These included the Schools, the Churches, the Library, the UDC building, the new Municipal Building - which looked resplendent, the Garda Station and the Court House. Commercial premises also looked exceptionally well, notably the three major banks and Lawlor's Hotel. The development at the "Look-Out" is exceptional and will be entered for the Waterside Award. This development greatly enhances the appearance of Dungarvan and fits in very nicely with the other development work which is taking place in that area and the nearby Sports Complex. The Grotto on the Cork Road again looked very nice this year and is being well maintained. Some of the comments made in last year's report are still applicable, notably regarding the amount of plastic signage which appears in practically every street in the town. Would it be possible, for example, to take the Main Street and, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, employ the services of a design consultant to recommend signage for each premises which would be in keeping with the building and what the premises are offering on a commercial basis. Should such a scheme be successful it could then perhaps be extended to other areas of the town. It occurs to the adjudicator also that the Main Street would be an ideal area for pedestrianisation (as has been done in Clonmel) which would greatly enhance such a project.

LANDSCAPING

Without doubt this is one of the major planks in the Dungarvan Tidy Towns effort. Work is continuing on the landscaping of the by-pass road and will eventually greatly enhance this area. The area surrounding the Church in

Abbeyside looked extremely well as indeed did the tubs of flowers which were in full bloom on adjudication day. The lovely hanging baskets and tubs of flowers were also noted at the Bridge. The area surrounding the Sports Complex is also being very well maintained. Perhaps better use could be made at the open space at the junction on the Waterford approach for the Town Centre and the Cork Road. Flower beds would look extremely well there. In general, landscaping throughout the town looks excellent. Well done to all concerned.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments under this heading were noted. The present thinking is that a Committee should designate an area either close to or in the adjudication area for the development and preservation of wildlife. In this connection the notes in the Tidy Towns Handbook may be useful. You should also make contact with the Irish Wildlife Conservancy. In the event, perhaps you would mention this with your application next year and identify the location so that the adjudicator can have sight of it.

LITTER CONTROL

This is an important aspect of the Competition and has to be constantly monitored. There was not a great deal of litter to be seen in Dungarvan on adjudication day but that which was there was in areas of the Square, on the approach road from Waterford and in some of the housing estates. It is very difficult in a town the size of Dungarvan to control this situation and, in this respect, your efforts are to be commended.

TIDINESS

In general, the town was presented in a neat and tidy manner. In some cases open storage on footpaths and in side lanes does not help. Car parks are very well maintained with cars being parked in an orderly manner.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Dungarvan has many housing estates on both sides of the Harbour, many of which were visited on adjudication day. In general, these were very well presented, in some cases exceptionally well. However, as mentioned above, there was some evidence of litter particularly in the area which encompassed Glendine Drive, Albert's Close, etc. This could be easily remedied with the provision of additional litter bins. In most cases open spaces are being well maintained although, in some cases, the grass needed cutting in order to give it a crisp look. Individual houses, almost without exception, looked extremely well; many had wonderful front gardens which were in full bloom on

adjudication day. This too is an important aspect of the Competition as you cannot hope to succeed without the co-operation of people living both in housing estates and individual premises. If you have not already done so you should try to form Residents Associations and have representation from them on your Committee. The Annual Awards is an excellent idea. It creates a friendly rivalry between all concerned which helps to raise the standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads to Dungarvan, almost without exception, were exceptionally well presented. The landscaping on the Tramore Road looked very nice but the grass needed some additional cutting. It is important to remember that adjudication does not just take place in the centre of the town. All roads and back streets are visited and all are considered when arriving at a mark. Street surfaces in the town appear to be well maintained as indeed are pathways. Adjudication normally takes place from the town nameplate or the speed limit signs inwards so hedgerows and grass verges from these points need constant monitoring.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall Dungarvan comes across as a very progressive town which has improved considerably in the last number of years - a matter which is reflected in its markings in the Tidy Towns Competition. Your 3 year plan is excellent. In order to gain further marks in the Competition it would be necessary, from now on, to pay attention to detail. Therefore you should select a number of items each year to be worked on within your physical and financial resources with a view to achieving a top award in the County early in the new Millennium. In this respect you should avail of the best advice available to you through your Local Authority, FAS, any local experts on landscaping and wildlife, etc. Your Regional Tourism Authority run a Tidy Towns Seminar each year with specialist speakers. This is well worth attending. You will learn a lot from it. It is also suggested that you might visit other centres of a similar size, for example, Kilkenny or/and Clonmel - meet with their Committees and discuss what methods they used to progress their involvement in the Competition. You are doing excellent work. Congratulations to all concerned.