

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	31	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>206</b>

## **Dunkerrin, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for completed entry form and sketch map which was helpful on the day. It is good to note that in quite a small village such as Dunkerrin that you have a Committee of 12 people and that you also obtain some assistance from FAS. However, it is also unfortunate to note that you state that the local community has not assisted you in any manner in respect of sponsorship or practical assistance over the last year. If you are to continue to undertake the good work that you carry out, which benefits the whole community, then obviously this situation must change.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The School was looking very well and Church also was very well presented, as indeed were the business premises such as Byrne's, O'Dulainnes and the Dunkerrin Arms. The arches of the wonderful old trading stalls which you rightly cite as the unique feature of your village were admired. At the Dunkerrin Community Centre, the sign here needed painting and whilst the Funeral Home is well decorated, some flower tubs would soften this area. Good stone walls throughout the village were noted, but ivy should not be allowed to take hold on these. On the Shinrone road, the graveyard is well kept but unfortunately the gate is broken here and needs to be repaired. Across the main road at the entrance to the housing estate, someone has painted the stone barrier near the opening, in the national colours – green, white and gold. Perhaps the person/s who did this should be reminded that in respect for these colours, they should be clean and bright at all times – if not, we would suggest that this wall be painted a different colour.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Much work has been undertaken over the years in landscaping on the approach roads and in Dunkerrin itself and the results of this planting was to be seen to advantage on the day of adjudication. However, in some instances the grass was not cut and here and there, some weeds had inserted themselves into the planting ( especially in the flowerbeds at the side of the stone Church). However, the weather this year has not been kind to these endeavours. We did note and admire the Millennium stone in Irish and English put in place to commemorate the turn of the Century and we also noted the well planted half tubs at the Trading Stalls. These make more of an impact than the hanging baskets and we would suggest that they replace same, except perhaps for two magnificent baskets at each

end of the stalls. The planting on the opposite side of the Dublin road and also at the intersection at the end of the loop road was looking well. The picnic area on this road is a good amenity for visitors, but we wonder do they know it is here ? The sign at the Dublin Rd says picnic area but people may think this is in the grounds of the Dunkerrin Arms. We would suggest that you put another sign on the Roscrea pole in the centre of the village pointing down to the picnic area.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The grassed and planted areas contribute under this heading.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

No litter bins were noted but there was very little litter in evidence except a sprinkling in the village and in the car park of the Dunkerrin Arms.

## **TIDINESS**

Dunkerrin overall presents a neat and tidy appearance. However, there are a couple of areas where more could be done. We noted that trees have been planted to screen the Dunkerrin Arms yard with crates, bottles etc. However, these will not grow in a short period of time and perhaps some further fast growing shrubs or timber lattice work could be used to cut off this area which is very visible to the public. Also at the Dunkerrin Arms there are seven flag poles – two of these were empty – one had a flag that has become unattached at one end and one had a tattered flag. If flags are being used, they should always be in perfect condition.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are not many private houses in and around Dunkerrin but those that are contribute to the Tidy Towns effort.

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

All signage could have been a little cleaner and the sign for Roscrea in the centre of the village needed to be repainted.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Dunkerrin is a village where it is obvious that the residents have a pride in its appearance and development. Due to its location on the main Dublin road, many visitors come to Dunkerrin and no doubt appreciate the work undertaken to date. We look forward to hearing next year of your future

plans in more detail.