

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216	211

Dungarvan, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The documentation is impressive. Now in the second year of the Development Plan, a great deal has been accomplished already, and work is quite obviously continuing apace. There is enormous evidence of a vibrant community expanding rapidly in many directions, bringing the challenges as well as the problems which prosperity creates. What your Plan does not give is a year-by-year table showing which projects are due to end in which year – perhaps your policy is to proceed on all fronts at the same time and complete all projects in the same year. In the matter of proposed awards, it would be counterproductive to enter projects which have not been finished, because they would most certainly not be entertained: please suggest these again at a later date. In the matter of marking too, an increase might be expected under certain headings after the principal projects in that category have been completed. Your map has been an enormous help in identifying salient sites.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

What strikes the visitor immediately on entering Dungarvan is the immense amount of building in progress, especially on the waterfront. The new apartments and commercial buildings here successfully echo the profiles of existing warehouses, and therefore the traditional scale is preserved. The Public Library has been impressively introduced into one of these developments, and is distinguished by bold signage. There are several excellent new shopfronts in the same precinct. The restored stonework of the Mill nearby, and a similar scheme at The Tannery and ABC Hostel, are sympathetic. The new Arts Centre is an imposing recreation of the 17th century Market House, and will be entered for the appropriate award. Work on King John's Castle was ongoing, and its completion is looked forward to. As before, the churches are well maintained; so are the hotels and the County Council offices. The Ormonde cinema is an excellent example of a fast-disappearing style and should be preserved at all costs. There are some fine factory buildings, such as the one adjacent to the roundabout on the Cork road. A very handsome stone arch surmounted by a lion seems rather neglected. Unfortunately there is a jumble of untidy signage in most of the business streets. Several shopfronts were admired; in order to be considered for an award, the upper storeys, including gables, roofs and stacks, must also be in first class condition; there should be no PVC window frames (this applies only to older buildings); there should be an absence of mass-produced or plastic signs, wires, plastic bunting or intrusive advertising such as large window

stickers.

LANDSCAPING

Green open spaces, especially in the neighbourhood of the Sports Centre, are well maintained; on a smaller scale, those at important entry points to the town (such as near Strand Street North) and alongside the by-pass, looked remarkably trim on the day of adjudication, providing a welcome freshness. Planting on roundabouts was effective in each case, and especially attractive at the principal intersection coming from Waterford. (Planting at the milestone on the Clonmel road, mentioned on the entry form, had not taken place).

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is an important step to have had dumping prohibited by the shoreline south of the Sports Centre and the area designated as a wildfowl habitat. Your liaison with the Wildlife Conservancy is welcomed, and progress is looked forward to.

LITTER CONTROL

This was reasonably good throughout the town. There was a little litter in some estates to the west of the town centre. The only point where litter was appreciable was, ironically, in the neighbourhood of the Recycling Centre (no. 8 on map),

TIDINESS

There are several neglected 'corners' in the town, not occasioned by ongoing development work – for example, a few yards north of the Arts Centre. Much of the untidy impression is occasioned by the amount of garish signage – each site taken on its own may not appear untidy at all, but overall the effect is of clutter. The neighbourhood of the Eurospar development is particularly unprepossessing. The network of overhead wires contributes unfavourably. Kerbside weed was not prevalent.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older street homes, and several terraces of cottages near the town centre, are very well maintained. Private and Local Authority estates, both old and new, looked well at the time of adjudication; minor littering has been mentioned above. Many individual houses are really beautifully presented, with charming gardens, especially on the outskirts. An un-named estate in the course of construction on the Clonmel road is very promising – there is plenty of space for the planting of trees here, and also in some other estates. New apartment buildings by the waterfront are neat and

tidy.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces and paving are mainly good throughout. The new paving being laid along the Quay is exceptionally good, as is the street furniture – particularly the new lamp standards reproduced from a traditional pattern: these should be introduced elsewhere, and would greatly alleviate the wirescape. This Quay area will be splendid in a year or two. The approach roads are unusually well surfaced, with trim verges. A type of drystone wall topped by a hedge on the Clonmel road was particularly admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very lively town with an air of enterprise, where steps are clearly being taken to ensure an attractive environment which measures up to the level of prosperity. When the extensive developments have been satisfactorily completed it should be exceptionally pleasant place.