

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNHILL**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	19
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	23
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	195	182

Dunhill, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your 3 Year Development Plan has been received and is impressive. What is missing is annual targets – i.e. which projects should be completed in which year; it rather looks as if you intend to proceed with equal vigour in all categories at once. If this can be achieved, well and good. Your excellent documentation, and the comprehensive and easily read map, demonstrate the vitality of this Committee.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As last year, the principal buildings – the Church, the Bell Tower, the School, the Enterprise Centre, the GAA – are well presented and create a focus of interest in their particular locations. The splendid wall at the last mentioned needed touching up with yellow paint at the date of adjudication. Harney's sets a high tone at the village centre. Be certain to retain the old buildings – whether in use or not – on the other side of the crossroads as they provide a unique visual account of what a well-kept village was like in the past. (Walls are considered under 'Roads, etc. below.)

LANDSCAPING

A considerable amount of work has been done since last year – the grassed area to the north of the school, and the tree-planting at the school, in particular. The lovely boundary hedge at the Church needs replanting in some places. Window boxes at the school were flourishing on adjudication day – congratulations to the pupils and teachers who look after them. The bedding plants described as surrounding the old well were not seen. A very good start has been made in landscaping the grounds of the Enterprise Centre, and this could be extended round the whole site. Hedge cutting was effective throughout the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The integrated wetlands project being undertaken on the Annewstown River is fascinating. The improvement of the watercourse and the creation of ponds is the visual evidence, and it is very heartening to read in your report that sea trout have returned to this reach of the river. The increase in the otter population – perhaps as a result of the latter – is a matter for celebration. If you do not succeed in obtaining the Heritage Award under this heading this year it may be because the judges decide on a project which is further advanced or completed.

LITTER CONTROL

Your programme has been more successful this year. Congratulations to all sections of the community.

TIDINESS

The vacant building next to Harney's has been successfully disguised by the use of a strong colour. Considerable kerbside weed was seen in the vicinity of Ballymageeragh Close.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Homes are looked after with pride. It is a pity that the entrance to Ballymageeragh Close was weedy on adjudication day. While the houses here are mainly very well looked after, some of the garden frontages are not up to the general high standard. The new estate to the north is promising; there are opportunities for extensive tree planting here, and the developer should be encouraged to do this.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces and paving are good; the newly widened street in front of the school is a huge improvement. The new stone wall here is excellent, and has repaid a great deal of thought. Car parks at the school and church were very tidy in adjudication day – you might add to your 3-Year Plan the cladding of the cement block wall at the latter with local stone. New lamp standards to a traditional pattern are a distinct improvement. Signage, and the covered map of the Copper Coast, are of high quality.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A fascinating village to visit, full of interest and promise for the future.