

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNMORE EAST**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	27
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	30	32
Tidiness	20	15	16
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	30
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	226	216

Dunmore East, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It was a real pleasure revisiting Dunmore East, of which the present adjudicator has summer memories going back to 1948! as well as more recent. Developments over the last few years have mainly enhanced the village – some of them will be mentioned below. What is patent is that the Residents' Association has done remarkable work in preserving the old-world atmosphere while encouraging suitable new initiatives. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the provision of a 3- or 5- year Plan would bring further benefits, the most important being the creation of a number of self-set objectives each offering an annual challenge for completion; the least important being an increase in marks under the above heading. Your map this year was insufficient, as it did not name streets, estates and other localities, nor did it mark locations where projects were on-going or completed: it is unlikely that we missed any of these, but one wishes to be sure. (Several local people did not know where Long's Hill was, or had heard of the memorial garden. At length the helpful Postmistress disclosed the information, which the present adjudicator should have known.)

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The wonderful Doric lighthouse, the Church of Ireland church, the Fire Station, the BOC building are all very well maintained. Paintwork needs refreshing at the RC Church. The Hotels are also well presented, especially the Haven in its splendid grounds. Among the business premises which were admired were The Ship, the Post Office, Early's, Snow's, Bay Café, Digley's, and Fitzgerald's. A few others were marred by inappropriate or mass-produced signage, and some well-painted frontages disappointed because the painting was not continued on gables.

LANDSCAPING

The public park is well looked after. There are several very well-kept green spaces, including near the harbour – which is admirable considering the commercial activity. The memorial garden is a most imaginative project. Tubs, baskets of flowers and small beds here and there add to the charm. Areas of neglect and weedy sites are few.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Both strands were clean and inviting on the date of the visit.

It has been noted that the kittiwake colony is being carefully preserved. There is so much bird and aquatic life, it would be good to share the knowledge and information with visitors – this has been done to great effect in some centres by the provision of illustrated boards listing species. Schoolchildren could be made more aware of these, and of other native fauna and flora, through projects and competitions. This matter was touched upon last year, and it would be good to hear of activities and results.

LITTER CONTROL

This was most effective. Litter was only seen in a very few odd 'corners'. Your work is a credit to everybody concerned.

TIDINESS

Dunmore East is certainly a tidy village. Some derelict buildings, however, belie the good impression – of the foot of the road to the RC Church, and near the Strand Inn (the latter in a picturesque terrace which should be preserved at all costs). There was considerable weed growth on adjudication day on the car park at the Golf Course. The area surrounding interesting ecclesiastical remains near the RC Church could do with tidying up.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older terrace houses everywhere, cottages in side streets above the harbour, thatched cottages on the main street, give Dunmore East its very special flavour. The standard of care is very high among residents. Newer thatched houses blend satisfactorily with the man-made environment. Some of the recent housing developments are in keeping with the traditions of local building, and estates of holiday homes are discreet and well kept. Verges and foliage at The Woods estate was surprisingly unkempt on adjudication day.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Verges on the Waterford road were surprisingly scruffy on adjudication day. The standard of surfaces is very variable. Paving is good. Some of the new lamp standards were in place – the removal of old poles is eagerly looked forward to. Improvements to stone walls, and new stone walls, were favourable noted. The car park at Councillor's Strand and other parking places were well maintained; off-street parking is urgently needed however. The public WCs were hygienic.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A busy, lively village in a delightful setting, where industry, commerce and leisure are equal partners. A place one would wish to linger – and obviously many lucky people do.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/00)

Litter control was excellent throughout most of the village and, in particular, at the harbour and on the beach. However a serious weak spot was the environs of An Síopa Beag and the enclosed green area between the latter property and the strand. This green area was quite heavily littered with papers, bottles and cans. Marks have been deducted under litter control because this entire area is an important focal point within the village. Your mark for litter control is still very high and reflects an excellent presentation under this heading but the weak area will have to be addressed by next year's competition if you are not to lose more marks. The earth bank at the recycling depot together with the perimeter of the carpark could be landscaped and the carpark itself resurfaced. Weedy kerbs and overgrown green verges were a feature of a housing development on the cliff road and some litter was caught in the long grass at the entrance to the caravan park on the Ballymacaw Road. Greater maintenance to green areas at the 'Woods' residential development is necessary. The walls of the Health Centre are still in need of attention and the terrace of houses at Woodview need their façades either cleaned or repainted. Some derelict cottages and walls at the nameplate on the road leading to the strand are unsightly. The memorial to those lost at sea was much admired by the second adjudicator also. The main street of the village is beautifully presented and there are some fine commercial properties. Now that the new street lights have been erected, it is hoped that the Eircom poles will be removed and service cables ducted. Some town houses are in need of repainting or refurbishment and some boundary walls to thatched cottages need to be whitewashed. Dunmore East is a very beautiful village with many handsome features and could do very well at a national level in the competition. The adjudicator enjoyed the time spent there.