

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DUNLEER**  
County : **LOUTH**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	27	29
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>202</b>

## **Dunleer, Co. Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Dunleer is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. The village enjoys a magnificent rural setting and ambience. We note your reluctance to participate in this year's Tidy Towns Competition due to foot and mouth restrictions and we acknowledge the difficulty in preparing a plan at such short notice. Have all of the objectives of the plan undertaken on your behalf in conjunction with Louth Leader been achieved? Are there still some outstanding works in this plan that could form the basis of your future work programme?

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Both Connors and the Centra shop were well presented during adjudication as was Shermans and the new Surgery. The building housing the offices of the Dunleer Area Action Plan appear semi-derelict and needs serious refurbishment. Hopefully when this occurs it will be extended to the roadside façade of the adjacent Food Market which is an important focal point in its streetscape but which is visually unappealing. The Bush Field Interiors premises also looks exceptionally well. The Esso station out the northern road still looks poor, particularly in respect of its canopy. The presentation of Duffy's Toy World is poor also. The Community Centre near the White River bridge should be painted. Teach an Chéilí is nicely presented, particularly in respect of its stone wall roadside boundary treatment. The wall and corrugated gates across from the Dunleer Credit Union could be visually improved.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Raised landscaped areas in the village along the main street look really well although some containers could do with weeding and perhaps replanting. Some climbing plants to the wire and post fencing of Wogan's yards would create a better sense of enclosure here. The grotto looks well. The environs of the old railway station, the Local Area Engineers Office and the Library are a particular black spot. Litter was particularly prevalent here and it consisted mostly of beer cans and bottles. The roadside verge leading to this area looked poor also. Flower displays along the main street and elsewhere were much admired. The landscaped grounds of the schools on the Clogher Head road are very impressive and the boundary wall of the school on the Ardee road might be improved for next year. The grounds and roadside boundary to the Glen Dimplex development and the industrial estate were much admired.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Elderberry bushes along approach roads and in other areas were in full flower during adjudication. Might you consider

undertaking a wildflower or wildlife survey of your area and its environs and highlight this as a feature of the village? Given its rural setting, Dunleer and its environs must present a variety of habitats for wildlife. A wildlife survey might be undertaken to identify wildlife habitats present and threats to these. Perhaps it would form the basis of a school project, combined with an art or a poster competition featuring a wildlife theme.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was very good in the town, the only weak spots were an area around the railway bridge and the environs of the old Railway Station / Library / Council offices.

## **TIDINESS**

Be vigilant regarding weed growth and keep an eye on curtilage areas also. As noted above the environs of the old Railway Station is a problem.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Roadside boundary walls to residential properties near the railway bridge could be upgraded. Residential developments are well presented. The Mountain View development looks particularly well and landscaping here is maturing nicely. The large tank is almost hidden by plants. The new small residential development on the Ardee road looks well and a single infill development further in this road sits nicely with its neighbours.

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

All entrances to the village are nicely presented and young trees are maturing well along roadside verges. The nameplate on the southern entrance needs to be relocated slightly as it is partially hidden by hedgerow. The new footpath out the northern road looks really well and was being maintained weed free. The speed limit sign out this road needs some attention. Wirescape along Ardee street is visually obtrusive and hopefully will be ducted at some stage in the future.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The general impression of Dunleer is one that is highly favourable. The overall presentation is good, streets are clean, flower displays are attractive. However some work still needs to be accomplished, particularly in the area of the built environment. Marks have been lost under litter control and tidiness, specifically for the environs of the library and area engineers office and railway station.