

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNGLOE**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	28
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	17	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	190

Dungloe, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Last years adjudicator suggested the creation and adoption of a development plan, it is disappointing not to find one attached to your application this year. A 3 to 5 year development plan with achievable target dates set for each project, under the various headings of the competition, would be most beneficial. It would enable you better plan your resources and make it more likely that objectives will be met. Your map of the town is very helpful and informative but do also highlight buildings or areas over which you have concerns yourselves.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Dungloe is to be commended for the underground ducting of overhead cables and for the installation of street lighting. The ESB generator plant is well shielded by trees. A flat-roofed building opposite Farren Roarty Mulhall accountants is boarded up and very unsightly. It should be demolished or renovated. Bank of Ireland could do with repainting its building and the railings outside which are rusting. The AIB Bank is very well presented as is MJ Bonners, including its garden. The Bayview Lounge has been freshly painted and nicely decorated by window boxes (both real and artificial flowers being used). Sweeney's Hotel has also been freshly redecorated. The Youth Project building also brightly painted and the fire station were further admired. The Credit Union is to be commended as is the Irish Permanent building which has fine window boxes on display. Ionad Temple Chroine is well-maintained; the area around it very clean and the landscaping very well done. The whitewashed stone wall around the building and graveyard could do with freshening up and the abundance of bunting, present on adjudication day, does somewhat detract from a fine building. The Coop car park has been retarmaced and would now benefit from a little soft landscaping. Nevertheless, it is very tidy and well-maintained. The grounds to the chapel are very well maintained and planting is good with a car park set back form the road. The rectory is well-presented too. The new Council Offices are an example of good modern architecture but could be more clearly sign posted.

LANDSCAPING

There are no less than three town signs on the Letterkenny approach road which is a little excessive. The hostel has made an attempt at landscaping at the front but it's still a bit weedy. The landscaped area in front of the Garda Station, complete with seating, a bin, fine trees, planting and a good stone wall, is very pleasant and commands a good view of Main Street. There is a fine water pump feature at the top of Main Street. There are a number of vacant plots, within the town where the grass is overgrown. Perhaps these areas could be landscaped for the purposes of public amenity.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The proposed development of a river walk is to be applauded and it is hoped that further walks can be created in time. Do try and develop further projects under this category.

LITTER CONTROL

There was an extreme amount of litter in the streets of Dungloe and is a serious problem with bins overflowing (as per last year's report). It is probably the biggest, immediate, challenge facing the committee. Fast food shops are a clear problem area and do not have bins outside their premises. Fly-posting on telegraph poles is a further problem and looks unsightly. However, your plan for recycling of waste is to be highly commended.

TIDINESS

There are several unattractive hand painted/written signs advertising local activities and displayed, centrally on Main Street, on large boards. Do be aware of unsightly commercial sign posts such as the rusting sign for Midway Bed and Breakfast on Quay Road as they are not only untidy but give an air of dereliction to a town. Weed growth at the base of buildings is common and needs immediate attention. The playing fields, adjacent to the Coop car park, are well-kept.

The lane way from the Coop car park to the Main Street is still a little untidy. A small stone wall along the Mill Road is very overgrown with weeds. The entrance to the GAA is very untidy; the gates are quite rusted and the wall itself requires attention to cracks and would benefit from repainting. There are also a lot of baseline weeds which need to be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses and gardens of St. Peters Terrace are very well cared for, the landscaping is very pleasant with border flowers, seating areas and a fountain all creating an impression. There is also a nice welcome sign at the start of St. Peters Terrace so well done to the residents. Ard Chroine estate is fairly well presented and the houses and gardens are, for the most part, well kept. Three houses on the left hand side of the Clonmaddy approach road are very well kept and were admired. Generally, housing at the top end of the main street is in fairly good condition. The derelict house opposite Rosses Community School, on Chapel Road, needs to be either renovated or replaced.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stone welcome sign on the Letterkenny approach road is very pleasant but a pile of rusted metal had been left nearby. The bi-lingual street name plates are well-presented and attractive.

Roads are well painted but some grass verges need trimming. The Super Valu car park

is well presented and landscaped although it could do with resurfacing in parts. Traffic congestion is a problem on the main street. Are there any plans afoot to address this? The pavement along Chapel Road is in very poor condition and at the same level as the road. This needs to be reinstated and would be of more benefit to pedestrians were it to continue further out this road. The road up to Ard Croine is in poor condition and there is a lack of pavement here also. The pavement at the start of St. Peters Terrace has a lot of grass growing through it. The road condition on the main street is good and the parking bays are well-maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Dungloe is a very popular town and has, as a consequence, to deal with the problem of additional litter.