

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUN LAOGHAIRE**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	27
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	211	200

Dún Laoghaire, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Dún Laoghaire is very welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. It is good to note your liason with local business and commercial interests and the practical assistance you get from these and residents associations. Your liason with the Parks and Environment Departments has been noted also, as well as An Taisce. Thank you for forwarding a copy of your Area Action Plan, we wish you well in its implementation. Work completed in recent years has given a new dimension to Dún Laoghaire. The newly renovated town centre and the new Park House property on Library Road together with Community Centre are fine achievements and make a significant contribution to the built environment and the overall presentation of Dún Laoghaire. Well done on your assumed role as advisors on development throughout the town. We wish you well in bringing about a cohesive traffic plan and indeed in tackling other problems. Your persistence is noted and hopefully will be rewarded over time. We also wish you success regarding the development of a civic museum for Dún Laoghaire.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Congratulations on the renovation of a third Victorian shelter and we look forward to the proposed two further refurbishments. Both Health Centres on Patrick Street had been recently painted and looked well. There are a few plastic neon signs on properties on Patrick Street which are quite dated. The Pascal Kennedy Motors (Seat) property is an important focal point in its streetscape, particularly when viewed from Library Road, and is nicely presented. The T. O'Loughlin public house looks well and its traditional sash windows are noted. The Guinness sign here could be changed, however, as it is somewhat dated. Dún Laoghaire has a successful mix of old and new buildings. Please submit details of the Oratory on Library Road with next year's application.

LANDSCAPING

Do submit details of your landscaping plans for approach roads, we would be interested in hearing of these. Both the harbour and seafront areas are fine recreational amenity features and are visually pleasing. The raised flowerbed marking the entrance to the waterfront area from the main street was just beginning to flower on adjudication day. Stands of young, semi-mature and mature trees are wonderful and are making their contribution to the town's character. Sculpture and green areas along the seafront are admired. Well done on the presentation of the children's play centre on Library Road . The small landscaped garden at Park House was admired. The People's Park is being considered for a landscaping award.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to note that a report has been prepared for Dún Laoghaire by Ballinteer

Conservationists. Are there further details regarding their recommendations in respect of wildlife at Moran Park? Have plans been prepared for the renovation work at the pond? We would love to hear from the committee regarding these.

LITTER CONTROL

Congratulations on your regular clean-ups, particularly your Sunday clean-ups between June and August. It is good to note that you don't tolerate fly-posting. Georges Street was very clean during inspection, well done. Some litter was noted in the environs of the Bloomfield Shopping Centre together with weed growth. Some of the flower containers here also needed to be weeded / replanted.

TIDINESS

Your schools initiative and the Green Flag competition appears to be paying dividends. You could take your activities a little further under this heading by ensuring that all kerbs and traffic islands and the base of trees along this street are free of weed growth. The number of over-sized advertisement hoardings on the DART premises wall takes away from the beauty of the old stone work here.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Dún Laoghaire has a range of architectural styles and most premises are presented to a high standard. Some old railings to residential properties on Northumberland Avenue need to be refurbished. Many boundary walls and railings are in need of cleaning and/or refurbishment. The red bricked terraced properties on Tivoli Terrace East are charming as are the "hooded", single storey dwellings on Cross Avenue. Many of the high walls on the Glenageary Road need cleaning. A good overall presentation!

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It is good to note that you extend your regular clean-ups into back areas also. The two traffic islands located across from the entrance to the People's Park at Marine Terrace are quite shabby in appearance, more could be achieved here. Carparks are nicely presented throughout. There are some very attractive old service poles, however many need to be refurbished (painted). Road works were noted in the course of adjudication. Visually obtrusive wirescape in the environs of the Methodist Church on Northumberland Avenue is unfortunate. Try to have all the service boxes around the town refurbished and free of graffiti.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The introduction of pedestrian areas into the town centre is a welcome development and adds a new dimension to Dún Laoghaire. We anticipate a high standard of presentation and visual amenity upon the completion of all works.

Second Adjudication (08/08/2002)

The high quality paving and other contemporary interventions along Georges Street have transformed the town. If the effect is not to be diminished litter control must improve. Persistent litter and weed growth, at Bloomfield Shopping Centre creates a scruffy image. It is particularly laudable that Dun Laoghaire unlike so many towns around the country is not afraid to embrace contemporary design in terms of buildings as well as streetscape while carrying out restoration in tandem. The well kept grassed area with mature trees along by the railway line is always admired. Encourage shop owners where applicable not to cover their frontage with superfluous advertising including window stickers. Weedy kerbsides were a problem in some residential areas but of even greater concern was the liberal spread of litter throughout.