

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	230

Dunmore East, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for the information contained on the entry form and for the map, which was most useful on adjudication day. The village of Dunmore East has grown considerably in the last number of years and therefore it is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of a number of statutory and voluntary organisations with your Tidy Towns effort. Because of this increase in size, it is becoming more important to produce a 3 to 5 year plan with a view to protecting the environmental aspects of this growth. As mentioned in last year's report, this can be done in conjunction with your Local Authority and other agencies who will be only too glad to help. On the basis of the comments made on the entry form, it is surmised that, at present, the emphasis is on maintaining what has already been achieved and therefore the following comments are based on that assumption.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Public, commercial and private buildings are being generally well maintained and great credit is due to all concerned for this. The Church, Fire Station, Lifeboat Station, the three hotels and the many commercial premises in the village looked very well and special mention must be made of the Ocean View, the Ship Restaurant and the Strand Inn. The Sailing Club premises is probably in need of refurbishment. The Park is being very well maintained. It is also true to say however, that some premises are badly in need of a coat of paint or whitewashing.

LANDSCAPING

With the growth of housing estates and self-catering complexes, vast areas of open space are fast appearing which will be in constant need of maintenance. It probably will be necessary therefore to work closely with Residents Associations and Local Authorities on their upkeep as otherwise the environs of the village could take on a very unkept look. There is some evidence of this already. Most village centre spaces are being well kept and the area surrounding the Ocean View and Ship Restaurant is delightful. Tubs of flowers, where presented, looked well. This type of presentation should be encouraged, together with window boxes and hanging baskets.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Kittiwake colony continues to thrive and is a very interesting addition to what is otherwise a commercial harbour. Councillors' Strand also looked well, but unfortunately, there was some litter in evidence.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was practically litter-free on adjudication day. Congratulations are due to all concerned. Councillors' Strand, however, needs constant monitoring. The Park was very well kept and litter-free as were the side roads and housing estates.

TIDINESS

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. Again a big "well done" to the commercial fishermen in the harbour who continue to store their equipment in an orderly manner in this busy commercial fishing port. The untidiness created by building works was allowed for, and it is hoped that this problem will have solved itself by next year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All the housing estates and self-catering complexes were again visited this year. In the majority of cases houses are being extremely well maintained but, as mentioned above, open spaces are, and will be, a major problem in terms of their maintenance for the future. Again great credit is due to the self-catering operators who are maintaining a very high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads did not look well and need to be strimmed. Adjudication normally takes place from the village nameplate or the speed limit signs whichever you opt for. Do consult your Tidy Towns handbook with regard to this type of maintenance. Within the village, the road surfaces are quite good as are the pavements.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As already mentioned, Dunmore East, population wise and in other ways is growing rapidly. An effort should be made to extend the Committee beyond 8 people and to enrol, if you have not already done so, representation from the various housing estates and commercial interests. On adjudication day, Dunmore East presented itself in a very neat and tidy manner and great credit is due to the efforts of the people involved. As mentioned in last years report, next year you might include a note on the map indicating where any particular developments have taken place, as otherwise it is extremely difficult on adjudication day to identify such sites. The village is now getting reasonably high up in the markings and with additional effort could, within the next few years, be figuring in the national awards. This however will call for planning and a good deal of voluntary effort supplemented by FÁS and other agencies.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/02)

In spite of the very real and admirable achievements commended above, there was some disappointment at the time of the second adjudication. There was considerable

litter on the approach to the marvellous Councillors' Strand, and the roadsides in the same neighbourhood were unkempt – quite unlike most of the other parts of the village. Contrasts of this kind were noticeable, for example, between the very smartly kept business premises mentioned above under the Built Environment and the prominently uncared-for Harbour House and its surroundings and between the beautifully maintained thatched cottages and one which is badly in need of attention. A walk from the RC Church to the harbour confirms this observation, and suggests that not all members of the community are supportive of the fine overall effort. It is certain that any mention of Dunmore East immediately conjures a memory of one of the best endowed villages on our coastline, yet when one visits one can not fail to notice surprising anomalies. The helpful final sentences of the first adjudicator should be seriously considered by the committee. The aim would be to see Dunmore East rising to a county or a national award.