

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DUNLAVIN**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	16	17
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	215	216

Dunlavin, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The work plan and map submitted with the application were very helpful. They show clearly the work planned and the progress can be measured easily on a viewing of the town. A more comprehensive plan with exact details of the work schedules would be beneficial, such as, when it is planned to undertake the work, who will be responsible and what bodies would be helpful in achieving the targets. Good progress has been made to date. This is an interesting town with lots of unique features in layout and detail.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The many varied premises along the wide streets give good character to the town. For example, the three storied buildings such as Tynte and the Deering and Coonan Office buildings, new three stories apartments beside the Imaal Hall and colourful public houses. Variations in style and paint colour make the streetscape interesting. Brescia cottage is a lovely sight with its exterior plant arrangements and climbing roses. The derelict building between Tutty's and Burke's pubs holds a very prominent position in the town and it is hoped that the site beyond the Fire Station will be developed. Some attention to painting and decoration of a number of premises would be helpful. The Church of Ireland, Catholic Church and Market House are very important landmarks in the town. The paintwork on the railings of the Catholic Church requires some attention and the adjacent gates are also in a poor state. Many of the traditional windows and doors have been replaced with less attractive materials. The schools, both national and secondary, are well presented. A considerable amount of new paving has been done and looks well. The authentic cobble stones at the Market house are very welcome rather than the concrete versions of these which are used so frequently. Similarly the cobble drain on the road across the top of the Fair Green to the Church is interesting and should be valued and revealed fully.

LANDSCAPING

A considerable amount of landscaping has been achieved. The Festival was in full progress at adjudication time and the Fair Green was occupied. The greens are well maintained. Large beech trees by the roadside wall close to the catholic church are very attractive and it is wonderful to have such large trees within the town. Similarly the enormous sycamore tree is a great asset in the small park by the Market House. These show the value of even one large single tree and when planting new trees in open spaces consideration should be given to the planting of these type of "real" trees, beech, sycamore, oak, chestnut, ash and lime, rather than a host of small ornamental

garden type trees which are so frequently used. The secondary school is very well planted and the new tree planting in the national school and opposite Friar Hill were noted. The tree planting in the street is very good and the tree guards are attractive and substantial. The planted borders were noted in the town and the border at the Glendalough/Kilcullen junction will give a great display later during summer. The seating and grassed area by the Fire station is innovative. The small park is a very restful place the roses, trees and grass make it a pleasant place to sit for awhile. The steps from the street are quite high and may be a problem for the elderly. Perhaps a sloped entrance at some point would be helpful and would allow for wheelchair access.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The development of projects under this category would be helpful. Being surrounded by natural countryside affords good opportunities. The Mass path project is an interesting one. Involvement with schools in the development of projects to increase awareness of the natural environment would be very helpful.

LITTER CONTROL

The Festival was in full swing at the time of the adjudication and there was litter everywhere in the town. While it is understood that such a festival creates an enormous amount of litter and places strain on the town. It is also true that people are more inclined to litter when they see others doing so. A good litter management programme would anticipate the needs of dealing with litter on such an occasion as it detracts from the town on such an important day in its calendar.

TIDINESS

Apart from the litter situation there is an orderliness and tidiness about the village. The top of church lane needs some attention where refuse has been placed and there is an old rusting car behind the tree. Kerbside signs and materials outside some shops takes a little from the tidy aspect of the town. On approaching the town from the Kilcullen side, the Market House comes into view beautifully flanked on either side with tree foliage. The cables overhead unfortunately mar this picture. The complete removal of the overhead cables will be very helpful.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a number of streetside residences and there is a combination of old and new homes. Houses at Friar Hill were well tended. The building work caused a little disruption but this will be completed in time. Many individual houses contribute very well and the residents in their pride homes and gardens is noticeable by the way they care for them.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads through the town are very orderly and well laid out and appear in good condition. The approach roads are effectively treated with good grass margins which are well cared for. Trees and hedges are very obvious on the approach roads to the town and give a good impression on entry.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Dunlavin is a very attractively laid out town. There has been much achieved both in the town and on the approaches. The tidy towns committee is small for the size of the town and a recruitment approach may help to get more people involved.