

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunleer**

Ref: **364**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **204**

Category: **C**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	29	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	16
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	30
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition however the entry form was not as detailed as it could be and there were no other backup documents. These items will be looked for in next year's submission. The Adjudicator is pleased that the Committee receives an Amenity Grant from Louth County Council and help from FÁS. The documents are of great help to the Adjudicator in seeing the work being done and they should also be of benefit to the Committee in monitoring the yearly programme. It is very important that there should be continuing liaison between all the statutory bodies as they can give invaluable help and advice to the Committee. A committee of ten is a good number. There should be more reference to help received locally and the involvement of the pupils from the schools.

The Built Environment:

Dunleer is a small village on the N1 which, until very recently, carried very heavy through traffic of trucks and cars. Now, thankfully, this traffic has moved to the motorway by-pass and has left the village in relative calm. Indeed this Adjudicator remembers often being part of the heavy through traffic. The Committee can now proceed with their programme of works, especially on main street, without the constant noise, pollution and danger. There are basic bad housekeeping problems in the area of the old railway station. The railway station structure is now closed up, but the gutters and downpipes have been left uncleaned and blocked which will cause problems to the structure. The Committee should investigate the future of this building. The Library has the letter "L" missing

from the work library. This looks bad and gives a feeling of indifference. The same applies to the Local Engineer's Office of the County Council, this again looks bad. Lights are needed on the road leading down from main street to the Library and Offices. The surface of the road needs to be improved. The Garda Station grounds look fine. The filling station really needs additional planting around it and general tidying up. St. Brigid's Hall looked well, but needs attention to both structure and grounds.

Landscaping:

Pairc Úi Mhuiri, in general, looked untidy on the day of adjudication and needs tree planting to enclose it and generally to sharpen its road frontage and perimeter. The Committee should consider a tree planting programme to various areas of the village, the schools, the playgrounds and to some of the newer housing areas. The pupils of the schools should be a strong element in this programme, not only to give them a pride in their village, but their involvement can curtail vandalism to the trees. Trees should be berried or with other forms of fruit bearing. Species could be oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut or thorn.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There was no information in the Entry Form. It is suggested that the Committee should contact ENFO to obtain some of the fine publications they produce on wildlife conservation.

Litter Control:

There was some litter on the day of adjudication, but not much however. Nevertheless, the Committee should give a talk to the pupils of the schools on litter control, and it would also be most important that a litter warden from the County Council attend at the same time.

Tidiness:

The village was not tidy on the day of adjudication, as already mentioned above around the Library and the Local Engineer's office, and also around some of the shops on main street. An item that may not occur in this village, but is worth mentioning, is that there is a tendency during the school summer holidays period to neglect the school grounds. It is important that pupils should be organised to keep the grass cut and to pick up windblown litter and also to keep adjoining verges, kerbing and bases of walls free from weeds.

Residential Areas:

Again, no information was given on the Residential Areas and the possible relationship of residents of these housing areas with the Committee. It is suggested that the Committee could organise two related Competitions, one between the various residential areas and the other a Gardens Competition especially aimed at new gardens. These two Competitions could make a significant impact within a few years.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Many of the gardens on the approach roads are excellent and give a great feeling of welcome. The verges of most of these roads were well maintained on the day of adjudication. If it is found that the wide verges, in places, are too wide and onerous for grass cutting, a verge of one and half metres is sufficient to cut and the remaining uncut grasses can be left as a contrast and possibly sown, in places, in wild flower mix. This area can then blend into the adjoining hedgerows and be an added area for fauna. A programme should be organised to keep road signs clean and free of grasses.

General Impression:

Dunleer has the potential to develop into a very charming village, but at present some basic items such as tidiness, development of a programme of work and attention to landscape details is necessary.