

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Duleek**

Ref: **327**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **206**

Category: **D**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	206	201

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition which contained a completed Entry Form that, in turn, referred to an Amended five-year Plan, and a Town Map. The Entry Form is basically very depressing as members of the Committee have resigned, two housing estate committees have disbanded, and many people in the village are leaving for other places, all due to the proposed incinerator to be built. Nevertheless, the population is rising from 3,000 people and will rise to 6,000 in 2006. This anticipated increase will include six housing developments and an industrial development. The present Committee states it will remain on and progress their proposals as best they can. It is very important that this Committee (however small) remains, rebuilds itself and looks forward to guiding both the present village and the imminent expansion of the village to twice its present size.

The Built Environment:

Duleek is a small, very pleasant and historic village. It was founded by St. Patrick around 450 and developed around an important monastery. The remains of this monastery are still here, together with a round tower and some High Crosses. There is a pleasant village centre which is very well maintained. Adjoining houses are fine as are the adjoining church grounds. New housing is being developed around the village and will be expanding further.

Landscaping:

During the coming year, little is planned by the Committee, except to plant a small woodland in Ryan's Park. The Adjudicator looks forward to the progress made in next year's submission.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Duleek Commons is a unique habitat containing many examples of rare flora and fauna. It was decided by the Committee, since they had not the experience to manage it, that they would leave it alone and just allow it to develop as an untouched habitat. This is a wise move, but nevertheless the Committee should contact the environment section of the O.P.W. (formerly Dúchas) to find out their possible role in the future management of this habitat.

Litter Control:

No litter was seen in Duleek on the day of adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated on this achievement. There was some scattered bits around new building areas. Nevertheless the Committee says that there are problems with both litter control and vandalism. The first steps the Committee should take is to visit the schools and discuss the problems of litter, the laws against litter and the pride the pupils should have in their village. Then discuss the problem with the shops in the village and, thirdly, to get litter bins from the County Council and to place these in a strategic locations around the village, with the understanding that the litter from these will be collected by the County Council. The role of the school children is essential by organising them into parties to trawl the village picking up litter. The Adjudicator looks forward to reading about what this has achieved in next year's submission.

Tidiness:

Duleek is a very pleasant, interesting and tidy village and again the Committee is to be congratulated on this achievement. Though it may not occur in Duleek, nevertheless it is worth mentioning, there is a tendency during the school holiday period to neglect the school grounds. It is important that the pupils be organised to keep the grass cut and to pick up windblown litter, and also keep the adjoining verges, kerbings and bases of walls free from weeds.

Residential Areas:

There are some very fine gardens, both on the approach roads into Duleek and within the village itself. These owners should be commended for the care, attention and the feeling of welcome these gardens give. It is very important to bring back lost members of the residential areas that have resigned, and to get them to organise two related Competitions. One competition between the various housing areas for the development of their front gardens, the maintenance of the green spaces and litter control and the other a Gardens Competition for individual gardens throughout the village, whether using hanging baskets or window boxes or the full garden front. These competitions could also encourage residents to join the Tidy Towns Committee.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the village were neat and tidy, except where building was going on. It is found that some of the verges are too wide and onerous to cut. A verge of one and a half metres is sufficient to cut and the remaining uncut grasses can be left as contrast and possibly sown with a wild flower mix. This area could then be allowed to 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:

Duleek is basically a very welcoming and pleasant village and the Committee is to be encouraged and congratulated on the work that is being done, despite people leaving the Committee and even the village, because of the proposed incinerator. What is really needed now are more members on the Committee to guide both the existing village and the proposed influx of new residents.