

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunderry**

Ref: **124**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **203**

Category: **A**

Date: **18/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	196

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition which included a very informative and completed Entry Form, useful additional information and a Village Map. The Committee is to be congratulated on their work with the County Council and the local school.

It is very important to continue this liaison with Statutory bodies, especially the Planning Department of the Council, so as be aware of future developments planned and not have them sprung on the Committee. This will assist the Committee in ensuring that all planning conditions are complied with by developers.

The Built Environment:

Dunderry has a population of 185 people and is a small, very pleasant, roadside village. A coherent group of public buildings, the Church, School, Community Hall and adjoining G.A.A. grounds and two public houses form the core of the village. The village is fortunate in having this core of buildings in close proximity, with residential areas slowly surrounding the Centre. The Church is a very fine building and the grounds are very well maintained in the limited space it has between its facade and the public road. The adjoining School grounds are also very well maintained. The front section of the grounds are very pleasantly planted and are a credit to the school. The front wall of the Social Centre needs repairing, which could be done in quick time; its present appearance detracts from the Centre. The bridge connecting the Social Centre to the playing fields across the small Clady River

was admired.

Landscaping:

Three small areas of tree planting could be considered by the Committee. All would be in raised planters (which could be used for seating) to protect the trees. They would add much to the ambience of the village street. No more than two trees in each of the three sites: (a) between the Church parking areas and the road, (b) between the parking area of the shops and the road, and (c) between the parking area of the Social Centre and the road. The school grounds could take a few additional trees. All trees should be indigenous and should be berried, or be other forms of fruit bearing trees. Suitable tree species could be oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut, lime and thorn. The pupils of the school must be very much involved in all this planting of trees in order to cut down on even small forms of vandalism.

It is suggested to the Committee that they should consider the creation of a mulch bank from the grass cuttings, leaves etc. The mulch could then be used in various locations throughout the village.

The Adjudicator noted that the banks of the Clady River are very steep and care should be taken in its development as an amenity. However the annual cleaning up of the bed and edges of the river is essential.

There are some very pleasant front gardens to some houses in the village. It is suggested that the Committee should organise a Gardens Competition to encourage gardens not yet completed. It would also encourage more people to join the Tidy Towns Competition and perhaps form a sub-committee to help the central committee.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Committee is to be congratulated on their creation of two small sanctuaries for birds within the village. Two additional areas for the conservation of wildlife should be considered: (a) the tree planting programme of berried trees that will introduce birds safely into the village and (b) the selected cleaning of the bed of the Clady River, while retaining the overhanging trees and banks as areas for birds, fish and other wildlife. The Committee is also recommended to contact ENFO to obtain some of their very fine publications on wildlife conservation.

Litter Control:

No litter was seen in the village on the day of adjudication and this deserves every praise to the team that trawls the village. This exercise also gives the school children involved a pride in their surroundings. The Adjudicator did not see the five bin recycling unit in the village, though it might have been there. If it did not, the Committee should discuss this with the County Council who supply the unit free. This unit, together with say two litter bins (again from the County Council) should contribute greatly to a litter-free village as well as promoting the recycling of glass, cans and disused paper and cardboard. Of course the Council must play a major role in the collecting of refuse and the recycling.

Tidiness:

The village was very tidy and neat on the day of adjudication and is a credit to the Committee. There are some items which could be improved upon, such as the grass verges on the entry roads into the village and the weeds adjoining kerbs and walls.

During the school holiday period there is a general tendency to neglect the school grounds. It is important that the Committee members, along with pupils from the school, keep the grass cut in the school grounds and pick up wind-blown litter, while keeping the adjoining verges, kerbing and bases of walls free of weeds.

It is suggested to the Committee that they should approach the County Council to paint yellow lines

to clearly demarcate the public road from the parking areas in front of the Church, Community Centre and shops so as to define their different uses (public and private). With the construction of the raised planters these demarcation lines on each side of the road could possibly be done by the Committee itself, but it is doubtful, as County Council approval might be needed. The yellow line work would give that extra air of tidiness to a short length of the village street.

The Adjudicator will look for total improvement on these few small items in next year's submission.

Residential Areas:

There are some pleasant front gardens, both in the village and on the approach roads, and they extend a feeling of welcome to people coming into the village. As suggested above, Gardens Competition could, within a few years, make a significant impact on the village entry points and enhance this feeling of welcome.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Additional signage is needed indicating the presence of Dunderry on the approach roads to the village. The County Council should be pressed for the supply and erection of these signs. There should also be warning signs for the school.

General Impression:

The Dunderry Tidy Towns Committee has obviously worked very hard, notwithstanding the problems of small numbers on the Committee, and have achieved good results. They are to be congratulated.