

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunkerrin**

Ref: **390**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **204**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	27
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	204

Overall Developmental Approach:

The excellent sketch map accompanying your entry form was very helpful on the day of adjudication. However, it is now required that a simple one page three year plan also accompany your entry and the Dunkerrin Tidy Towns Committee should aim to provide this documentation next year. Such a plan is helpful in focusing your work over the coming years.

The Built Environment:

The Dunkerrin Arms, the two churches and the school were all quite well presented. However, it would be nice if the clock was operational at the Dunkerrin Arms and the surround walls of the school painted. Also, the walls of the graveyard were well painted, but the gates here needed attention. The old telephone box is now an eyesore and needs to be refurbished or removed so that Dunkerrin may progress in the Competition. The community centre and St. Patrick's Funeral Home were well maintained and neat and tidy. The little gate lodge on the old main road known as the Ink Pot is quite unique and we hope that you achieve your aim of restoring this in the future. If this refurbishment does not happen soon, it would appear that the building will become even more dilapidated than it is at present. While there were bars on the windows, the door was wide open on the day of our visit.

Landscaping:

The window boxes, planters and hanging baskets around the village were admired as was other planting undertaken throughout. The trees planted previously in the village and on the approach roads are now maturing and giving additional character to Dunkerrin. The containers near the opening at the opposite side of the road to the Dunkerrin Arms were colourful and attractive. We would suggest that one good wooden or stone trough like container here would be better than the two round plastic containers at present in situ. The planting at the head of the slip road was rather overgrown. The landscaping around the two large car parks for the Dunkerrin Arms was attractive and well maintained. The trees planted to screen off the storage area are now maturing and doing their job.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planting undertaken contributes in this category. However, a specific wildlife project should be considered when drawing up your three year plan. The green area at the entrance to the old main road had a profusion of wild flowers including wild orchids. Perhaps wild flowers could also be propagated in other parts of the village.

Litter Control:

While there was not a large amount of litter in Dunkerrin, there was enough to be obtrusive and some further work is needed in this area.

Tidiness:

The car park at the Dunkerrin Arms was neat and tidy except for a small amount of litter. The flags on the flagpoles in this area were fresh and bright. A visible farm yard on the slip road also presented a tidy appearance. The telephone box, as mentioned above, spoiled the overall tidy appearance of the village near the historic Arches. Ivy needed to be removed from a stone wall on the Shinrone Road and at the graveyard and some other areas, weeds were sprayed without being removed first.

Residential Areas:

Most individual houses and houses in housing estates were contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. However, there were a few notable exceptions.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Directional signage was in a poor condition in Dunkerrin and has been so for some years - it would seem that the committee themselves will have to take on the task of cleaning same. The Dunkerrin name sign and street furniture in the village were well maintained

General Impression:

A charming and historic village which must attract many visitors. It deserves to reach its full potential and we look forward to progress in the future.