

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunmanway**

Ref: **444**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **209**

Category: **C**

Date: **06/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

Dunmanway Promotions Association Limited certainly has a reasonable sized committee for its work, with 23 members. Your work in relation to Dunmanway Model School is indeed commendable and progress was well underway on adjudication day. You appear to have a high level of local support in terms of sponsorship and a strong relationship with Cork County Council. Your work in relation to bi-lingual street names and nameplates is highly commendable. Well done for an extremely efficient application, which was most informative. Your three year rolling development plan made interesting reading.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. Do discourage the use of projecting plastic signs and replace them with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The Indian restaurant looked rather grubby in its prominent location and the planted bed to the front was empty. The boundary wall of the Catholic Church also appeared grubby, although the cinema was admired and looked quite charming. Doheny's Bar looked quite fresh in yellow with colourful window boxes. O'Donovan's and Collin's Butchers both were well presented and the Credit Union looked quite fresh - another butchers shop appeared to have been abandoned. Buildings on the Square and the Main Street generally looked fresh such as An Chistin and An Toisin. However, there were others which were in sharp contrast, in terms of presentation, such as a premises on the corner of Castle Street, the old Garda Station and the Health Centre, all of which should be

freshened up before next year's competition. The new Garda Station was well presented and the modern Community College building, with its landscaped grounds including statue was greatly admired. Fitzpatrick's is an unusual and attractive shop front which should be freshly painted before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

Perhaps the concrete post and rail fence at the pitch and putt course and playground on the Drimoleague Road could be replaced with stone walling or indigenous hedging in beech or hawthorn? The lakeside landscaped area looked well. The new statue of Sam Maguire was admired, as was the adjacent fountain on the Square, with its limestone coping and cobbled paving. The hanging baskets, benches and floral display at the triangle at the junction of the Drimoleague Road was admired. Do ensure that you don't rely too heavily on colourful floral displays but rather, try to emphasise permanent planting and trees for year round effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Dunmanway is indeed fortunate with its abundance of woodland and lakeside area. Your plans for a series of nature walks is a commendable one and the adjudicators look forward to seeing your progress in this regard.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonable given the town's size but could be improved upon. Papers and bottles were evident on Castle Street, some litter was evident to the basketball courts and also strewn along the Bandon Road.

Tidiness:

A large shed opposite the Methodist Church created a bad impression, as it looked rather neglected. Although the phone boxes were in good condition, an adjacent meter cabinet beside looked unfortunately flaky. A torn advertising hoarding opposite the Garda Station created a bad impression, as did a derelict building beside the Bank of Ireland. The gateway leading to the bottle bank was quite damaged - this area was generally in bad condition, including the basketball court. The boundary wall of the graveyard will need painting before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

New houses at the Nowen View Estate and Ross Gael were coming along well - although the former was still a building site at this point. Houses were generally in reasonable condition, although some of the boundaries on the Drimoleague Road looked quite grubby. The stone walling to the council houses on the this road is extremely successful and the colourful houses in this location were greatly admired and appeared quite quite suitable. An empty house near the cinema created a bad impression and a charming house in pink opposite the West End Bar appeared to be boarded up also. Houses further along Castle Street looked well and the interesting plasterwork to the terrace of houses beyond the Catholic Church was admired, as indeed was an attractive garden beside the Garda Station.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There were a large number of advertising hoardings on the Drimoleague Road - the twinning sign was virtually obscured in this location. This road appeared quite rough and the benches were quite patchy in appearance. However, the planting and grass verges were well maintained. Work was noted at the bridge - presumably this will be a viewing point? A rough area opposite it created a bad impression. Road surfaces were generally in bad condition. The Bandon Road was presented to a higher standard, with attractive grass verges and painted up cart and floral displays.

General Impression:

Dunmanway is a busy centre which continues to expand and develop. Try to resolve problem areas in terms of empty premises and derelict buildings and keep up the high level of interest in town. It has shown much improvement in recent years.