

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunfanaghy**

Ref: **512**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **249**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/04/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	35
General Impression	10	8	9
TOTAL MARK	300	249	248

Overall Developmental Approach:

Dunfanaghy is a popular coastal town with wonderful natural amenities and beautiful scenery. It is quite clear that there is a lot of building and development work on going and this brings with it its own problems of sites being worked on and unfinished gardens and residential areas, overall through the hard work of the Committee there is a good balance on the work being done and the protection of the natural environs which is a credit to them. It will be all important to keep a watchful eye and plan for future maintenance and protection to maintain the current high standard.

The Built Environment:

Visually the main street is nice with buildings such as Arnold's Hotel, AIB Bank, Haiti Sona and McAuliff's Craft shop adding to the overall look of the town. There are a couple of prime properties which are run down and now for sale when these are sold and developed it will look better. The many developments of holiday homes and private houses on the main approach roads are being built to a high standard and where stone walls and paving are finished and in place these add to the standard. The Stone walls also at the waterfront and throughout town on approach roads is a lovely feature. The two schools Garda Station, Presbyterian Church and Catholic Church are kept in pristine condition. The Dunfanaghy workhouse with stone building is a lovely building & a nice addition. It will be interesting to see what development plans there are for the derelict out houses behind it. The Market square looks well to the main street front, but could do with some improvement work to the back of these buildings and the Public toilet area.

Landscaping:

There is great attention overall to landscaping and the main street is colorful and attractive with hanging baskets and Palm tree pot plants. The green area with flowers to the waterfront is very attractive and laid out well taking in the great views across the bay. The stone flower beds at the corner of the Garda Station and to the right of Carrig Rua Hotel were attractive and the water pump feature with flowers on Port Road was noted. The flowers and scrubs in planted areas such as the Presbyterian Church, The Catholic Church, Holy Cross School (the poppies planted were lovely as was the mural in the school shelter) were in full bloom and were very attractive. The approach roads were all clean and hedges were trimmed and cut and in good condition. Most of the private houses on roads such as Port Na Blagh and Creeslough road had beautifully maintained, mature gardens that added to the overall high standard of landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Dunfanaghy is a natural habitat for a range of Birds and sea life that is unique to this area, it is a major centre for brown trout and the only place in Ireland where the corncrake can be heard in its natural habitat. The landscaped Waterfront area would now be an ideal location to put a plaque or notice board detailing the Wildlife and natural amenities of the local area and it would be an addition to the town to the residents and visitors alike.

Litter Control:

The Main street in Dunfanaghy was litter free. There were some small litter at the Public Toilet area, but overall the standard was good throughout the environs. The Bottle bank area was clean and maintained well. It is quite apparent that a dedicated drive to this is on going in the town and surrounding areas.

Tidiness:

Due to ongoing building work and properties being sold and/or developed there is going to be a certain amount of untidiness but having looked at some of the finished developments they appear to be completed well. It is essential that the Committee continues to ensure and monitor that the developers leave the sites and building areas in the best possible condition including landscaping before they move on. Some retailers using the main street as a seated area and for displaying merchandise does take away from the clean and tidy look of the main street. The sign for W.J. Crossan could do replacing on the main street. There are a couple of derelict properties spotted here and there throughout the area that it would be good to pursue as to ownership and development purposes in the long term.

Residential Areas:

It is difficult sometimes to keep on top of areas especially in a seaside resort where a lot of the properties are private or holiday homes. There appears to be quite a lot of secondary residences (Summer homes/Holiday Homes) in Dunfanaghy but for the most part the standard of housing and finish is very good with these properties. The permanent residences were also finished and maintained to a very high standard, which is a great credit to the committee to achieve this standard and to the home owners that quite obviously have a great sense of pride in their properties and environ.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Road surface, footpaths, built stone walls and new lighting have all added to the standard of the town and certainly the approach roads are all too in good condition. The signs throughout are good down at the harbour and also on the approach roads.

It might be nice if budget allowed tying in with the nice stone wall work to have a stone carved sign with a flower bed on the main approach road with "Welcome to Dunfanaghy" and maybe one as you leave.

General Impression:

There is a very good standard within Dunfanaghy and the Committee are to be congratulated for the work achieved thus far, for their commitment and efforts. The work in progress sheets show the attention to detail and hard work that is needed to complete the work. It might also be an idea now to put together a 3-5 year plan that could be used to achieve further future goals and objectives to continue this work and ensure that Dunfanaghy maintains and attains further successes.

Second Round Adjudication:

Dunfanaghy seems have expanded rapidly in recent years-especially since the adjudicator first had the pleasure of visiting the town. There are an abundance of new houses and new stone walling throughout. Do ensure that building materials are removed once work is complete. The many churches of the town - and their grounds - were well maintained! The town was very busy and generally looked quite fresh, apart from the Carraig Rua Hotel which will hopefully be restored to its former glory once it has been sold. Litter control was a problem on the day with quite a few outbreaks evident on the main street of the town, particularly in the vicinity of the Market Square. The recycling area showed evidence of dumping , so perhaps a more frequent pick-up is required? A boarded up house opposite the Church of Ireland should be restored to its former glory in an appropriate manner, as it is quite charming.