

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dungloe**

Ref: **373**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **190**

Category: **C**

Date: **26/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	14
Litter Control	40	18	17
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>184</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The application form, regeneration report, photographs and colored map were all very helpful in painting a picture of Dungloe currently and giving us insight to future plans for the town. The Committee of nine is working very hard to achieve tangible results for the town areas such as the development of the River Walk and the Poly Tunnell which are both excellent initiatives. There is always a fine line between progression and development blending in with the already established facade of the town, the town is by its layout quite extensive and as with any busy town where there is growth there will always be building development but I feel Dungloe has improved on last years efforts.

### The Built Environment:

The main approach roads are in good condition and footpaths are especially good at Chapel Road in the direction of the National School, also on the way out to the Cois Loiche estate and St. Peter's Tce. has also been resurfaced. with work completed on the Cope and Supervalu carparks. Resurfacing needs to be carried out up hill to Ard Crone by the Garda Station and to the car park area towards the Bay on Quay Road. There is a number of impressive locations where stone walls have been built like at Fairhill Estate and The River Walkway these blend in very well with the local areas and add to the standard. There are a few properties and areas on the main street that need attention such as C. Bonner & Sons and the derelict site beside Sweeney's Hotel but on balance properties look very well on Chapel Road and Main Street such as McBride's & Co. Solct. and Patrick,

Johnny's & Sally's (Public House) and Ionad Teampall Chroine are all fine examples of buildings which are an addition to the Town. Signs are good on all the approach and main roads into the town.

### **Landscaping:**

There have been some nice developments in this regard and certainly the Millennium Garden at Ard Crone is very attractive, Fairhill Housing estate with the stone faced wall and enclosed garden and hanging baskets in full bloom, most are painted white which is very impressive visually with the landscaped flowers. The Cross on the Plaque at the entrance to the estate is a nice feature. The new Housing Estate Cois Locha is aesthetically nice and good green area there is some planting but some properties could do with more. St. Peter's is very nice with the picnic area and water fountain - overall care and attention at these estates is very good and there is a real sense of community pride. The Approach Road area from Loughanure side with An Clochan Liath name of the town done in Stone with landscaping is very attractive. Private houses range from a mixture of very nice on Caravan Road and Quay Road and some in need of attention. The grounds of the Health Centre, The Community Hospital and Teampall Chronne are very attractive and well cared for. The hanging baskets noted were in full bloom and colour obviously the Polly Tunell is working well.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The completion of the River Walk is a nice addition to the town, and certainly with the river/nature walk established there is now opportunity to note some signs or plaques at the entrance to give information on the range of Wildlife, Fish and Animals that are local to this area. Entrance maybe could do with a little more definition and a more attractive start than the log on the ground blocking bikes etc: could be replaced. The Sea front also without doubt is a natural area to develop in Dungloe and there are plans by the committee to revisit this and look at the whole area of regeneration, I think this would be commendable and with the lovely stone buildings & wall to the front of the bay there is great opportunity for development here.

### **Litter Control:**

Overall Litter control was good in the main areas and on the approach roads. The main street had some litter but the Litter bins were empty and not overflowing. The recycling area in the lower car park on the main street was in good condition. Involving the local national school and heightening awareness of litter with the job initiative checking on specific areas has paid dividends.

### **Tidiness:**

Some properties on the main street needed some attention and were a little untidy due to over head hanging displays and products out on the street, if this could be reduced it would add to the visual view down the main street. Some vacant sites and on going building work in progress also doesn't help the situation. Most approach roads into town were good and if a more community led initiative for the main street and shopping areas could be agreed it would assist in the standard & overall visual view of the town.

### **Residential Areas:**

Most residential areas in Dungloe have taken great care with their gardens and they are nicely landscaped. Ardcrone, Fairhill, Cois Locha and St. Peter's are very attractive and for the most part the houses are well tended and contribute well to the overall appearance of the town. With the introduction of the joint development plan with the 3 main estates this will certainly increase the standards even higher. The houses on the approach roads are attractive and have mature well cared for gardens and boundaries. There are a few houses that are the exception to this and they are mostly at the top of the main street on the hill. It certainly is an undertaking for any committee to get full support for a programme that involves all of the community, but initiating meetings with each section of approach roads and involving private home owners helps overall and the Tidy Town

committee has certainly done well.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Stone walls, footpath provision and built flower beds in the town has been ongoing and especially at places such as Chapel Road and on The Gweedore Road out to the Cois Loiche estate these footpaths are a great addition. Where the stone built walls are such as in front of the bay and at Cois Locha these are lovely and add tidiness and structure to the areas but keeping balance within the natural look. The re kerbing of footpaths at St. Peter's Terrace were also noted. Continuing work to this effect should be part of the on going development plan for the town. Signage is good also in the town and most approach roads are in good order.

### **General Impression:**

Dungloe has made good progress and although building work and development is on going there is a good balance on general looks and improvements within the town. It is obvious that the Tidy Town committee is actively striving to improve each year and the work to date such as the River Walk and developments on approach roads, footpaths, kerbing and stone walls, is commendable. To build on this good work I would suggest that the committee continues building up the community efforts by meeting with all the necessary groups in the various areas involving as many traders as possible to push forward development plans for the town. There has been some marked improvements this year.