

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunleer**

Ref: **67**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **198**

Category: **C**

Date: **12/07/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 28 | 33 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 27 | 28 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 29 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 15 | 15 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 26 | 27 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 13 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 25 | 24 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 198 | 204 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The committee are thanked for their entry into this year's competition. However no back up documents were included in the application and this is required for next year's entry. This was asked for by last year's adjudicator and it is not clear why the committee does not send this information through. It is suggested that the committee contact their local Tourism Officer based in Dundalk Tourist Office for advice in relation to preparing a development plan and in completing the entry form. Marks are awarded for works carried out during the year but this work needs to be communicated to the adjudicator. A map of the town is also very useful with places of interest and street names clearly marked. These items are requested for next year's application.

The Built Environment:

Dunleer is a small town that has seen a decrease in through traffic since the opening of the M1 however on the day of adjudication it was clear that it is still a busy town. As was pointed out in last year's report, the buildings around the old railway station require refurbishment and cleaning. It is a nice area but not at all maintained. More letters are now missing from the signs! The Garda Station and school were well maintained, but the garage and adjoining building requires cleaning and maintenance.

Landscaping:

The Drogheda approach road is very attractive and the trees are maturing nicely; the entrance to Rivervale development was most untidy and spoiled this nice approach to the town. The public toilets were closed but there was a very nice water feature with some flowers planted in front of them. The surrounds to Pairc Uí Mhiúri were very clean, however, the committee should consider some tree/shrub planting along by the rather austere looking steel poles at the front of the building. The landscaped area to the front of Glen Dimplex was very attractive. Wogans DIY shop is very clean, however they should consider the planting of shrubs or trees around the fence of the yard opposite to screen the area from view.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There was no information given on the application form under this category, however the adjudicator noticed the Ratheskar Lakeside Walk is very near the town - does the committee have any involvement with this development.

Litter Control:

There were areas of collected litter around the town and no details of a litter management plan were submitted.

Tidiness:

Dunleer has many fine areas that are well maintained, e.g. outside the Glen Dimplex building, the approach road from Drogheda, the exit road to Kilsaran has some lovely trees planted that are maturing nicely. Some areas require attention. The area behind the sculpture is overgrown with weeds; the bring centre had rubbish and bottles strewn around it. In some areas, weeds were growing out of the pavements and at the base of walls. The signpost for the recreation centre still had an old sign attached onto it in June for an event that took place in February.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas in the main were well maintained. Some gardens were wonderful and added colour and a feeling of welcome on entering the town. Shamrock Grove looked particularly well and deserves special mention.

There is quite a lot of development going on in the centre of the town and it is important that new residents are encouraged to maintain their estates. Once developments have been completed and all the houses are occupied the committee may consider organising a gardens competition to encourage the residents to do this.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The hanging baskets around the town were very well maintained (not an easy job!) and added a wonderful splash of colour. Signage around the town was clear and clean - well done. The road up to the Library requires maintenance. A pity to see graffiti on the railway bridge near the sign "Don't let the louts litter Louth"

General Impression:

Dunleer is a busy little country town. It had a very welcoming feel and it was so nice to see people standing and talking to each other along the main street. It is not clear how long Dunleer has been entering the competition but certainly the town has the potential to score highly, as it has so many attractive features. As previously stated, some advice is required from your local Tourism Officer and the adjudicator looks forward to the improvements in the coming years.

