

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Duleek**

Ref: **69**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **207**

Category: **D**

Date: **05/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	207	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for the map and the five year plan. The village is getting very big with the expansion through new housing estates. The extensive use of tree planting, especially of those species which are already prevalent in the surrounding countryside will help to link urban and rural. It is important that both the facilities and amenities are available throughout the village to support these people, such as the new retail units. It was good to note that you meet with Meath County Council and the developers frequently and that there is practical support from the estate committees. Duleek has been through turbulent times - it is hoped that the village can consolidate and go forward providing an attractive place to live and visit.

The Built Environment:

The Arts Centre is a boon to the village and is a popular venue. Its strategic location in centre of the village and opposite the old courthouse may be enhanced by some planting - though the form did mention vandalism and this may make tubs/baskets difficult to maintain. A more coordinated approach to the presentation of buildings might be considered. The main street requires greater effort and this is more significant as the number of residents increase. An attractive main street will help to attract the residents into the main street rather than bypassing it from surrounding towns. Floral displays would have enhanced a number of premises and a coordinated approach to exterior wall colour would make a huge difference. The school on Abbey road was tidy, though the GAA centre needed attention. Duleek Community Hall also needed attention, though perhaps it is not in

use. St Marys Abbey is a fine building - the size of the restaurant sign in front of it did tend to detract from its appearance. It is a pity that the public toilets are in the old courthouse, as this is also a fine building.

Landscaping:

The judges look forward to a revision of the existing planting and consideration of new schemes - opt for native and berry bearing trees and shrubs as well as low maintenance planting which provide colour on a year round basis. The use of different grasses can be very effective. There is no need to remove ivy from all stone walls, unless it is totally overgrown - it can add to the character, and if removed can make the wall more vulnerable to decay. Planting on the Abbey approach road looked well and the area was well maintained. A stand of trees would enhance the green island area at the bus parking at the school though this may be considered in your planting programmes. In relation to flower planting and display, do consider the use of a scheme of colours i.e. red and oranges rather than a fragmented approach as the colours and plant type can help to link the village together.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The ideas in relation to wildlife as set out in your 5 year plan are commendable. As the village is increasing in size, there is a greater need for play/amenity areas. It is important to be inclusive with your design, planning and management of such areas and to encourage schoolchildren to be aware of the importance of wildlife areas. Projects undertaken in conjunction with the primary school would link in well with their existing curriculum. The planting of berry bearing trees will encourage wildlife. The judges look forward to the walk on the Commons. Yellow flags and numerous butterflies on the day of judging created a picturesque scene.

Litter Control:

Litter was unfortunately evident in several places on the day of judging e.g. opposite the 'Take it Home' premises and outside the school. A concerted effort by all residents is required in order to eradicate it from the village though it was noted on your application form that litter patrols had been stepped up. Both residents and school children must be made aware of the illegal nature of throwing litter - however passing traffic probably contribute to the litter as well. Keep up the pressure.

Tidiness:

Tidiness of the village required attention. A number of verges on the approach roads required cutting back - marginal mowing is all that is required on the outlying part of the village. There were also weedy footpaths which detracted from the overall look.

Residential Areas:

It was good to note that you hold annual competitions for the housing estates. The completion of the estates on the Navan road will enhance that approach into the village - and also provide new additional persons to participate in the tidy towns committee! Oakleigh and Abbeylands were well presented. Other housing around the village was varied with some pleasant gardens and well maintained front areas noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Duleek is fortunate with its long history and heritage. The small back lanes of the village are very pleasant meandering with their high hedges - and gives the village character. The approach roads were only reasonable - with weedy areas evident along the Abbey road. The Navan road was fine as was the Drogheda road though it is difficult to judge these when there is such a considerable amount of building being undertaken.

General Impression:

The litter issue is a priority and you do realize this with the use of ongoing litter patrols. The plans set out in your five year plan are achievable and will enhance the village making it attractive for both resident and visitors. It is a time of rapid change - good luck with your involvement and progress.