

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunboyne**

Ref: **556**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **200**

Category: **D**

Date: **09/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	21	20
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>197</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

You have included in your submission an outline of the works progressed during the year but where is your three to five year work programme? It is essential at this stage of the competition to include it with each year's application, in order that the adjudicators can see progress as the years go by. When reading your application, the adjudicator felt that you ran the risk of relying too heavily on floral displays. However, when arriving in the town it was pleasing to note that you have got the balance just right and have also ensured a high level of permanent planting and tree planting! Your work with Meath County Council in relation to a new town layout and street furniture is to be commended, as indeed are your submissions in relation to the development of Dunboyne Castle in order to ensure its heritage value. Your work in relation to the housing estates is obviously paying dividends. Good luck with future work in relation to vacant sites as these can look most unfortunate.

### The Built Environment:

Both public and commercial premises in the town looked well cared for on the day. The modern church with its well maintained grounds, including overhanging weeping willow tree was admired. Perhaps some landscaping could be considered in its car park area whose surface was in good condition but sported some weeds at kerbsides? The National School is a most charming building with its attractive window boxes. Both the AIB and Bank of Ireland were well maintained. The properties to Main Street were extremely well maintained and most properties looked extremely

fresh. Of note were Dunboyne Pharmacy, Little Scholars Creche, Crusty Corner, The Fruit & Veg Shop, Property Team, Brady's Grocers and Caldwell's Restaurant.

### **Landscaping:**

This is an aspect of the competition which you obviously enjoy, to judge by the marvellous main space in the town with the attractive mature trees, newly planted trees coming along well, attractive timber bollards and splashes of colourful floral displays in terms of hanging baskets and tubs. The numerous housing estates contribute well to this aspect of the competition. The timber fence to an empty site on the Dunshaughlin Road could possibly be replaced with indigenous hedging in beech or hawthorn or a natural stone wall.

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

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you have ignored this aspect of the competition and not referred to it specifically, although you do mention tree planting. Do follow the suggestions made by last year's adjudicator and read your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for further developing this aspect of the competition. It covers such topics as types of wildlife areas, the creation of these, habitat surveys, and developing management plans. It is a most important category and will continue to be so in the competition. Get local school children involved; there must be a high number in the town given the level of new houses estates cropping up.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonable, apart from the odd item of litter along the main streets and an occurrence at Sadleir Hall.

### **Tidiness:**

The adjudicator was pleased to note you are seriously active in terms of tackling vacant sites - one opposite Cute Cuts looked unfortunate. Do discourage fly posting as it can give roadsides a very cluttered appearance.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard in this category was generally good. New housing estates contribute well such as the Old Fair Green, Court Hill Drive, St. Peter's Park with its colourful floral display, Sadleir Hall and Garnet Hall with its attractive landscaping at the entrance incorporating trees, grassy verges and rose beds. Luttrellstown Hall and The Drive were also of note. An open space at houses opposite Top Shop appeared extremely overgrown and this should be rectified before next year's competition.

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

On the Dunshaughlin Road, the verges were fine, although the town nameplate was quite grubby. Along the Maynooth Road, work appeared to be taking place and the dangerous bend sign was quite obscured by overgrowth. The new stone walling was admired, however. Along the Summerhill Road the town nameplate was also extremely grubby although the mature overhanging trees were admired.

### **General Impression:**

Dunboyne is a most attractive town which, in common with many County Meath towns, is expanding rapidly. Keep up the good work in relation to monitoring ongoing development both private and public. Be sure to submit your work programme with next year's competition entry and do approach the topic of Wildlife before then!

