

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Daingean**

Ref: **80**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **216**

Category: **B**

Date: **17/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	17	17
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for an excellent submission, complete with illustrated map and details of work on hand and work planned. Your approach is commendable and your policy of involving a number of various agencies is the way forward. However, getting the community actively involved is what will bring best results. Your 3-5 year plan is a good practical guide to progress and your challenge now is to adhere to it and review it each year. As you are no doubt aware there no short cut to successful tidy towns. You have quiet a large area to cover and you also have a good deal of 19th century buildings needing attention. You need to blend in the new with the old and ensure developments are compatible with the environs. In particular you have an unusually generous stretch of canal that offers wonderful potential as a valuable asset.

The Built Environment:

The town hall dominates the square and recent developments have made this area a focal point of distinction. More importantly it has regular usage and seems to be well maintained. We suggest you remove the 'Merry Christmas' sign as it is inappropriate on this building. We suggest an information plaque other than the existing one giving details of former usage, when it was built and it's association with James Gandon. The RC church is well presented although the brickwork has gone shabby. The national school has been freshly painted and looks well, apart from the roanakabin which is no gem. Other premises that looked well included: An Post, Health Care, Mangans Meats, Quins Supermarket. The house beside An Post is unique and attractive. The town has some excellent

stone houses with quality features. We would refer you to comments on last year's report in respect of some buildings needing attention.

Landscaping:

You have done well in this section and tree planting of previous years continues to enhance. The colourful and well presented flower display across from Quins is an excellent introduction to the main street from this location. We commend you on the large grass areas being so well kept. The canal area in particular is excellent and offers opportunity for further development. Daingean 2000 is excellent and provides a lovely vista at this point. Canals are likely to grow in popularity as people get more leisure time. They can also be a great source of local history and you might give this some thought. You still have scope for tree planting in the town area and you should pursue this. The canal walks are superb and well signposted. Again this year local commercial operators have responded with attractive displays of window boxes, hanging baskets and some flower tubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We have looked at the area around the old church and cemetery. This area is in need of improved presentation and much of previous years work has now gone shabby. There is some dumping at the entrance and the area around the tower is very untidy. You need to tackle this as special project for 2005. The many fine mature trees in and around the town are worthy of preservation and form a link with the past. The canal and environs offer great scope for promoting wildlife. You might consider erecting some display boards featuring the popular species. Include the mink, which was observed cheekily crossing from the canal to the housing estate across the road.

Litter Control:

You have some litter problems and pockets of litter could be seen around the town hall and on the main street. Litter control is everybody's business and as a committee you need to impress upon all who live in and use the town have a responsibility to play their part.

Tidiness:

Your problems here are caused by poorly presented open space, broken walls, dereliction and unoccupied houses and some unsightly chainlink fencing and rusty farm and town gates. There is dumping inside the cemetery entrance, a common complaint in many cemeteries. In some areas, people are requested to take their litter home. There is an unsightly yard with a skip beside the national school. The unoccupied house beside The Blackthorn is now a problem area. The open space around the Bus Garage is very untidy.

Residential Areas:

In general housing estates are well presented. However, some need attention and many have poorly presented boundary walls needing painting. Like almost every village and town new housing estates are being developed. The housing at Phillips Vale has potential to be attractive. Now is the time to landscape, while we acknowledge the hedge planting around the boundary area. The small housing estate opposite Mangans is fair in appearance. The high wall of the former reformatory school is one of the best preserved in the country. We hope your efforts to cooperate with the Offaly Co. Council will bear fruit in creating a new environmentally friendly usage.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Tullamore approach is excellent and some very good individual effort here. Flanked by an attractive canal it provides an attractive approach for the town. Side and rear entrances are now a integral part of the competition and we would urge developers to present these areas to a high standard. The road structure is good, but some signposting needs cleaning. We found Coologue

housing estate poor and some cars have been abandoned here.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Daingean and see first hand the impressive progress of your committee and other agencies. We hope your efforts will be rewarded by continued cooperation from the community. You have much to be proud of and the natural and built features offer great scope for you to become a high scorer in the competition. Good luck for 2005.