

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunkerrin**

Ref: **35**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **204**

Category: **A**

Date: **20/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	204	204

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand. We still await the plan mentioned in the report last year. We feel this is important at this stage to get you back on course and revitalise the activity of former years. This plan should reflect the thoughts and aspirations of the community and should be done in association with the local authorities and relevant agencies. Such a plan, simple in form would chart the way forward for an enhanced Dunkerrin.

The Built Environment:

The village is endowed with some fine mature trees, some attractive 19th century buildings and older buildings of historic interest. Now that you are by-passed, you are being spared almost continuous traffic and have the opportunity to present the village to an improved standard. The Dunkerrin Arms now dominates the village from the main road entrance. Its large car parking space needs some improvement and there is a large open space adjacent, opposite the landscaped triangle, in a very poor state. The school is the best presented building in the village and has been freshly painted. The church is in need of painting and the surrounds need improved landscaping. The Community Centre is fair, but the rear of the building is poor. The Church of Ireland church is attractive and is well presented with good grass cutting.

Landscaping:

You have some excellent examples of good landscaping: lovely mature and young trees, good shrubbery and flower displays and an excellent picnic site on the old approach from Roscrea. Some of the work of previous years is now in need of improvement and this is a challenge for your committee. There are some very good examples of individual effort and community endeavour presenting some good colour throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the work at the picnic site regarding the promotion of wildlife through the ESB Birdwatch project: the first encountered by this adjudicator. Again this year, we commend you on your efforts with wildflowers and appropriate planting to assist wildlife. Would it be possible to erect an information plaque giving details of the history of the Arches on the church wall?.

Litter Control:

There was a small amount of litter in the Dunkerrin Arms car park. Also at the rear of the Community Hall where the bottom of the chainlink fencing is a litter trap. Otherwise the village was free from litter.

Tidiness:

The many open spaces poorly presented, derelict and unoccupied buildings and some poorly presented boundary walls create untidiness.

Residential Areas:

In general residential buildings are very well presented. The house opposite the church is excellent, with mature trees, a well presented stone wall and attractive landscaping: a good combination of environmental excellence. Byrnes looked well with some colourful window boxes. The village seating is very visitor friendly. The Funeral Home could be improved with a little landscaping as it has ample space and layout for development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The old approach road from Roscrea is excellent and offers a most attractive vista from this area. Well done on all the grass cutting throughout the village and on the approach roads. However, you still need to give the village a more defined identity in view of the by-pass. You should consider erecting two Fáilte signs on the two principal approaches.

General Impression:

The village looked well on adjudication day and many people are working hard to improve the appearance of their premises. However, the village needs more community effort and coordination. We reiterate our request for a development plan to put in place to rectify many of the points mentioned above. We wish you well for 2005.