

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dundrum**

Ref: **590**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **193**

Category: **B**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	
The Built Environment	40	25	
Landscaping	40	27	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	22	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	
General Impression	10	5	
TOTAL MARK	300	193	

Overall Developmental Approach:

The attractive village of Dundrum makes a welcome return to the Tidy Towns Competition this year. Thank you for the completed form, outlining the various works you are undertaking.

During the coming winter, the Committee might, with advantage, consult widely with the community to develop a three year rolling plan. This should set out its objectives, target date and in general set forward the philosophy and long term aspirations of your Committee. Dundrum is a thriving community with many strong, vibrant industries. Major building works are underway on the former Railway Road with a large wall being built by the Sports grounds. If possible when completed this wall might be pebble dashed or capped. Because of the length of it, it is desirable to make the size more manageable by the introduction of colour. Painting the capping stones for example and the vertical supports would give it a more appropriate scale when measured against the housing on the opposite side of the road. The sizeable Dundrum/Clonoulty Road restoration project looked very well. A pleasant feature of the settlement is the over arching trees on many approach roads. These are very much a good feature and almost a symbol or icon of the centre.

The Built Environment:

Sizeable and significant commercial undertakings are very much a feature of Dundrum. PP O' Dwyer Hardware was a very well presented store as was Tudor's Tile. At a different scale TJ Ryan, Butcher was extremely well presented.

Buildings which once served a different purpose, for example the splendidly built Railway Station and the former Garda Station offer splendid potential which is not yet fully utilised. The Church of Ireland building and its grounds were very well presented.

Landscaping:

The topography of Dundrum offers many opportunities for imaginative landscaping. The extensive tree planting on the main road looked very well highlighted and accentuated the well presented grassed area. Please give attention to the extent of weeds growing outside kerbing which materially diminish the overall effect of the splendid grassed area and trees. The fine mural on Bertie's Bar was eye catching while the extensive Celtic Plantarum Nurseries, both the main and the nursery on Drumbane Road were neat and well presented.

There is a fine stand of trees close to the former Garda Station while throughout the centre, communal grassed areas were well presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The development of wildlife habitats is seen as a very desirable aspect of Tidy Towns activities. The layout of Dundrum, with its extensive grassed areas offers many opportunities for appropriate development in this regard. The Committee should discuss the options with a local bird or wildlife enthusiast or call on the services of the wildlife ranger attached to the Office of Public Works, contactable direct or via the County Council Area Engineer.

A number of centres have developed very imaginative and beneficial responses to this category.

Litter Control:

Litter management generally in the centre was of an acceptable order with the occasional falling from grace. However there were extensive litter at the Eircom sub station on the side road at the former Garda Station. Minor amount of litter was seen elsewhere, a situation that might be helped by an increase in the number of litter bins. However have a care that appropriate measures are in place for the servicing of these, if the last situation is not to be worse than the first.

Tidiness:

Many factors have to be weighed in arriving at an overall view under this category. The extent of weeds between the road and pavement is a disappointment as it is a disfigurement which is, relatively, easy to eliminate. Dundrum Sawmills looked quite well as did O' Dwyer's Steel. Surprisingly the promotional signs for the two hotels both need attention one, repainted/replacing and the other to be more appropriately secured. The area around the Eircom sub station was quite untidy with both excessive weed, litter and other disfigurement very much apparent.

The appropriate use of the recycling units can often take some time to bed down. The bottle banks, on the day of adjudication, were quite acceptable in general. The good work with the schools is paying dividend both in terms of litter and general tidiness.

Residential Areas:

The housing on the former Railway Road was, generally very well presented with a number of splendid individual gardens and some houses being freshly and appropriately painted.

Fine new houses on the Cashel Road caught the eye, opposite the pleasant Golf Course.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

A delightful feature of Dundrum are the arching trees which provide a flickering sun filter effect on many approaches. On the Annacarty Road one of the 30mp signs is somewhat obscure while on the Drumbane Road a support pole for the 30mp sign badly needs attention. Overtime Dundrum needs to work at creating a clear cut divide between the village proper and the surrounding, rural countryside. Judicious placement of the village nameplate, speed limit restrictions and other devices can help to accentuate this division. But also avail of existing physical elements for example the Railway Bridge on Rasheen Wood Road.

The directional sign post, opposite the Golden Vale is somewhat over crowded and the pole is currently very much off the vertical.

General Impression:

Dundrum is a delightful location enhanced by wide imposing streets and some significant quasi public buildings. Its good use of open communal space, its extensive stock of fine trees, coupled with the delightful approach roads all contribute to the potential for a very splendid presentation. A good start has been made this year by your re-entry into the Competition and we look forward, to ongoing successes as the Tidy Towns concept gains momentum, support and involvement by the wider community. Congratulations to all involved in this year's initial participation.