

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dungarvan**

Ref: **694**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **236**

Category: **E**

Date: **28/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	30	26
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	236	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for all the information sent with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication as indeed was the map. Reading through the work details would seem to indicate that your small committee of five can only act in a co-ordinating role and, as such, are doing an excellent job. Indeed the raising of €10,000 from local businesses is a mammoth undertaking and all concerned are to be congratulated on it. Much of the work would appear to be carried out by your Local Authorities and, in that respect, excellent work is being done. While it is considered that some local assistance must be coming to you in the form of community involvement and that of Residence Associations, nevertheless success in the competition depends very much on a partnership arrangement, so do try to involve as many as possible of your local organisations such as Chamber of Commerce, Community Council, Residence Associations, etc. where they exist.

The Built Environment:

Many of your main public buildings were visited on adjudication day - Churches, Schools, the Library, the Civic Offices, the Teagasc Building, the Garda Station etc. All are being very well maintained and great credit is due those who are involved in this maintenance. Commercial premises throughout the town also look well and work at King John's Castle was noted. The "Lookout" development is maturing very nicely and the Sports Centre and its surrounding area is also a very nice feature to have. Mainly because of the high density of traffic, the Quay area is getting very congested which, it is assumed, was never intended. The Church at Abbeyside is a

lovely building and is being very well maintained also.

Landscaping:

As requested, the Adjudicator followed the route of the main landscaping which is taking place on the Bypass Road and was very impressed with what was seen. Roundabouts are being very well maintained and, in particular, the one at the Waterford Road and its surrounding landscaping was very much admired. The wonderful trees which appear to be marching down the Bypass in greater numbers, year by year, create a lovely atmosphere and all are maturing very nicely. Continue to plant trees and shrubs which will give some colour on an all-year round basis. They are much easier to maintain than flower beds and posterity will thank you for them. The Grotto on the Cork Road looked resplendent again this year and the floral areas, hanging baskets, tubs of flowers and containerised planting throughout the town created a very nice ambience.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You do not appear to have undertaken a project under this heading. The area of the "Lookout" and Ring na Skilloge Walk and, indeed, the area around the Sports Centre would lend itself to such a development which would be a lovely attraction for both residents and visitors alike. There may be someone in your locality who is knowledgeable on this or indeed your Local Authority may have a staff member who could advise on such projects. This could be as simple as the provision of nesting boxes and feeding tables for birds in a selected area.

Litter Control:

This would appear to have continued at a very high level again this year. However, there was some evidence of littering in some of the housing estates in the Abbesside area, in the lane behind King John's Castle (between the Quay and the main street) and in the area of the "Lookout". Minor littering was also noted on the Clonmel Road approach. Nevertheless, for a town of its size, Dungarvan is doing very well under this heading and deserves great credit for it.

Tidiness:

Generally speaking, Dungarvan was well presented under this heading on adjudication day. It has to be said, however, that the traffic situation is chaotic and creates an air of untidiness when it actually isn't there. In this respect, serious consideration could be given to pedestrianising parts of Dungarvan which has been very successfully done elsewhere, such as in Clonmel.

Residential Areas:

Dungarvan has many housing estates and as many as possible were visited on adjudication day. Many new estates are nearing completion and while it is not possible to mention them all the estate at "The Hermitage" was much admired. The hope is, if they have not already done so, that they will form Residence Associations and help out with the excellent work which your committee is doing, all of which cannot be undertaken by local bodies. Individual houses throughout the town also looked well and, in the majority of cases, had lovely gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day and a joy to behold. This individual effort is also an important part of the competition and is to be encouraged.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads, particularly from Waterford and Youghal, looked very well. The Clonmel approach is being very nicely maintained as is the Coast Road. The thatched building on the Clonmel Road was noted and it is indeed a pity that it is not being preserved as it would make a very nice feature just on the outskirts of the town. Road surfaces are quite good and pathways are being very well maintained which reflects great credit on your Local Authority.

General Impression:

The work being carried out by the Local Authorities is most impressive. However, it is equally important to get as much of the local community involved as possible. Perhaps one way of doing this would be for Dungarvan to declare 2005 as their own "Year of the Environment" with the production of a new plan which would incorporate all aspects of community involvement and which might be the basis of calling a public meeting of the various groups throughout the town in which case you could also invite South East Tourism, LEADER, the County Development Board, etc. to be present. Dungarvan is a very big centre and it will take something like this to spur people into action. Planning should be based on the various headings of the Tidy Towns Competition to which people could relate and which, in the process, would earn additional marks. Excellent work is being done and the Adjudicator looks forward to coming back to Dungarvan again next year to see further progress made.

Second Round Adjudication:

The town of Dungarvan has seen many changes and developments taking place over recent years. The work at the Quaysides is of particular note. The level of detail to paving in this location is particularly worthy of comment. At the waterfront, however, a temporary plastic fencing had been used where hedging was gapped, giving a somewhat temporary appearance here. Chains in this location appeared somewhat rusty, as were other items of street furniture, such as lamps to the front of the park. The adjudicator was pleased to note the restoration of the bandstand since last visiting the town. Litter control did not appear to be as good as on First Adjudication Day-some was noted at the park, on approach roads and at the green space on Castle Street, where work is ongoing to the Castle. Plastic bags appeared to have been abandoned on the footpath outside Garvan's Court and the Lookout - perhaps a more frequent check could be made in this location? However, new litter bins in the vicinity were admired. The buildings of the Square were presented to a high standard. There are some fine examples of traditional shopfronts and unusual plasterwork throughout the town. Of particular note were Robert Merry's and James Kiely's. There is scope for sensitive development of the laneways of the town. An attractive landscaped area on the Cork road was greatly admired. Dungarvan has made significant progress in recent years and continues to do so-congratulations to all concerned!