

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunmanway**

Ref: **482**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **213**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	209

Overall Developmental Approach:

Built on the banks of two rivers and situated in gentle rolling countryside, Dunmanway offers residents and the travelling public the best of both town and countryside with its scenic views from elevated approach roads. Welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and supporting material, all of which facilitated adjudication. The town has some unique features which ensure a rewarding experience to the visitor. Your difficulties regarding the lack of a town council, funding of new projects, a small population and lack of new business interests in the town are appreciated by the adjudicator. However Dunmanway looked beautiful on adjudication day and this is no small achievement in the light of existing limitations. Well done to all involved.

The Built Environment:

The Market Square looks beautiful with its Sam Maguire sculpture, landscaping and wirescape free status, surrounded as it is on all sides with attractive shopfronts within handsome two and three storey buildings. The base of one of the two specimen trees on the square was exceptionally weedy which took away from the presentation here. The majority of businesses have put their best face forward and many of them have been considered for both the shopfront award and the Irish shopfront award. These include Mirabelle, The Shamrock, James McCartney, O'Murchú, and An Tóisín. A number of premises need improvement to their upper stories. Discourage the use of awnings such as those featured on the Illusions premises and the Master Butcher, the latter was

quite shabby in appearance. Request businesses to ensure that their curtilage areas are neatly presented also; an example here was the West End premises. Hopefully the sash windows and other traditional features of the Fitzpatrick premises will be retained upon refurbishment. The outsized plastic protruding sign on the First and Last Tavern in Castle Street should be removed altogether as it is quite unsightly. The barn shaped corrugated roofs of buildings which are for sale at the entrance to the town centre from the road by the school should also be refurbished as they are quite visible. Public buildings were well presented, these included schools, the Garda station and the church and its grounds. Well done on the erection of street nameplates.

Landscaping:

The pitch and putt course looked beautiful as did the park playgrounds, tennis courts and the grounds of the community college. All were presented to the highest standard. The entrance to Dunmanway from the Coolkelure Road also featured beautiful landscaping. Flower displays throughout the town were admired for their colour and profusion. Some dreadful flower tubs on the road near the Texaco garage would have been better taken in. This was near the bridge over the Bandon. The wall beside Kerrs Pharmacy should be either painted or planted as appropriate. Some consideration might be given to some landscaping at the car park spaces on the Main Street. A fine presentation under this heading.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river was quite stagnant on adjudication day and featured excess growth, is this healthy? The flowers here were certainly attractive and the ducks and swan weren't bothered at all it would seem. We note from your submission that local students clean the Sally River to encourage wildlife; are there more details that could be provided. Water lily is an attractive feature of the lake and the small park here was being nicely maintained. The car park could be resurfaced and weed growth needs to be kept in check at this venue. Has a wildlife survey been undertaken? This might be a suitable project for the future. The wildlife officer in your local authority can be of assistance here.

Litter Control:

Well done on initiatives under this heading. We note from your submission the acquisition of new bins and your liaison with schools. Litter control was very good, however a few scraps were noted here and there. A beer can and a few plastic bottles and cigarette cartons were noted in a river. We would like to have more information about your regular litter control activities and also your overall litter management strategy so submit details with next year's application.

Tidiness:

We note the good treatment to the vacant property located beside the Bank of Ireland. Could its boarded up windows and doors be painted a bright colour for more attractiveness? The vacant building beside the T. O'Sullivan General Grocer premises which forms a street corner should be kept as neat as possible until redevelopment and hopefully the sash windows here will be retained. The timber gates to the council yards were noted for their quality however the skip in the yards was visible from the market square which was unfortunate; the gate should either be kept closed or the skip removed to another part of the yard. The bottle bank was tidy.

Residential Areas:

It is good to note your communications with residents groups around the town and your availability regarding painting and colour schemes etc. A mature residential development located opposite the Model School was admired for its landscaping, a new smaller development was noted beside. The new development near the Community College was also admired. The beautifully landscaped wide grass margins to dwellings out the Skibbereen Road formed an excellent introduction to Dunmanway

on this entrance. Some boundary walls to dwellings in Castle Street could be improved, we note however well painted facades here and some boundary walls in the environs of the Esso garage looked a little weather stained also. Try to bring new residents on board the Tidy Towns effort by welcoming them and integrating them into the social fabric of the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Footpaths along the main street are broken in parts however footpaths, road surfaces, stone walls, etc. near the park are to a good standard. On street car parking is orderly in the town centre and car parks are reasonably well presented. The public toilets were dirty both inside and outside and graffiti was a problem here. The retaining bridge walls at the West End Bar are in need of refurbishment. Both the Main Street and Castle Street featured unsightly wirescape however it was good to note the wirescape free status of the Market Square. A water pump in Castle Street could be refurbished. Grass verges on the Coolkelure Road were overgrown but displays of wild flowers here were attractive; verges out the Skibbereen Road were overgrown. Well done to the Spar for the nameplate on the Coolkelure Road, the traditional one should now be refurbished. The lake and picnic area should be signposted at its entrance with an attractive hand painted carved timber signpost. Well done on the erection of additional street nameplates.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Dunmanway is favourable. The town has a handsome well presented built environment with significant recreational amenity attractions and enjoys an excellent level of general maintenance..

Second Round Adjudication: