

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunfanaghy**

Ref: **473**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **243**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	12	16
Residential Areas	30	25	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	243	249

Overall Developmental Approach:

The coastal town of Dunfanaghy overlooking Sheephaven Bay with Muckish and the Derryveagh Mountains in the background is an idyllic location at any time of year.

It is obvious from your Work Plan and map, greatly appreciated by the adjudicator, that you as a committee are well aware of the improvements required to progress in this competition. On going development in Dunfanaghy continues to offer new challenges to the Tidy Towns committee with entrances and boundaries not presented well during or after development has been completed. It is important that the Tidy Towns Committee make the Local Authority and potential developers aware of their desires for such developments in relation to design features that echo and compliment the existing built environment and that local materials and indigenous plants are used where possible.

The Built Environment:

First impression of the built environment is positive with the Presbyterian Church, Arnold's Hotel, Hati Sona and McAuliff's Craft Shop being well presented. Derelict buildings or those up for sale and awaiting redevelopment continue to be a problem and detract from the overall good built environment. The Square is an excellent focal point, however, advise should be got on the suitable rendering of Market House to conserve its unique architectural features. Street furniture such as seats, bins and some signage need freshening up. The stone facade of Ramsey's Store down by the harbour and the nearby "Boathouse" is commended. The new St. Vincent's de Paul Community Centre on the Falcarragh Road is an impressive building and with your influence in relation to

landscaping will greatly enhance your built environment. The Gallery and The Workhouse were very well presented and are a valuable asset to your tidy town efforts.

Landscaping:

Some colorful landscaping was noted at the Horn Head junction and a small flower bed on the Creeslough approach. Planters were noted along the Main Street with palm trees and some shrubs. A number of these containers need attention. The Green is nicely landscaped, however, some of the plants and shrubs need to be trimmed back as they are infringing of the walkway. The stone wall here has some containers embedded which need to be planted out. The nicely landscaped garden to the side of the Work House with its seating area, picnic tables and colorful flower beds were admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Dunfanaghy has the potential to excel under this heading. The B.I.M. chart and the wild life chart is a starting point. Seek the advice and guidance of local and relevant environmental organisations on both wildlife and angling to help you document some achievable goals in this section utilising your many natural amenities of lakes, shoreline, hedgerows and sand dunes. The Tidy Towns Handbook has a wealth of information in this regard.

Litter Control:

Some bottles and papers were present in the area of the Green at the picnic tables, perhaps the provision of bins in this area might help. Some litter was also visible at the base of the Harbour walls and in the area of the Square. Your work with the Holycross National School for the Green Flag and the beach clean ups is an excellent way of creating awareness and achieving behavior change in relation to litter and waste management. As mentioned in your support documentation Dunfanaghy as a coastal holiday town faces many challenges under this heading. Continue to lobby and work with the Local Authority to address the situation.

Tidiness:

As mentioned in last year's report untidiness surrounding ongoing development in and around the village is mitigating against you. A proactive approach in tandem with the Local Authority and developers is required to address this issue. The area behind the Market House leading down to the harbour and around the public toilets needs attention. The recycling area was tidy. Blocks holding up a tree guard in the Square and the rusted Archaeological Map need to be addressed. Muck'n'Muffins is tidy and beautifully presented with hanging baskets, and planters adding color to this corner of the Square.

Residential Areas:

There are some lovely private houses and gardens on approach roads and in the centre of the village which are well maintained and presented. Some individual houses on new and developing housing estates are keeping their lawns trimmed, making good use of floral displays and garden furniture to attractively present their properties. However, housing developments in general are untidy with landscaping not complete, surfaces in need of attention and boundary areas bringing the overall standard down.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Port na Blagh approach was trimmed and well presented, however, the Dunfanaghy name plate has some graffiti which takes away from this. The children crossing sign on the Horn Head Road needs replacing. It was great to see designated disable parking on this road. The verges of the

Falcarragh road were neat and some dry stone walling was in progress on adjudication day. The surface of the road directly opposite the Square leading down to some road works will I hope be left in a suitable condition when work has been completed. Back areas are generally well presented, however the area leading down to the Harbour has huge potential as an amenity area for both residents and visitors alike and should be further developed.

General Impression:

While you have had some success to date it is now essential to prioritise achievable tasks on an annual basis and engage the active participation of the larger community if you are to move forward in this competition. Circulating this report to all residents and a garden competition for housing estates (both holiday and permanent) possibly sponsored by local businesses would help the community take ownership of this competition and support the work of the Tidy Towns Committee.

Second Round Adjudication:

Commiserations on a loss of marks this year under two headings hopefully the areas in which you gained marks will soften the blow a little; marks lost under the heading of Tidiness were due mainly to the appalling state of the recycling point at the harbour; the loss under Residential was a result of the poor standard of presentation of new residential developments in respect of green areas and road surfaces. Perhaps your greatest challenge for the short term future will be to integrate new residents into the social fabric of the village and encourage them to become involved in the Tidy Towns effort.

Congratulations of the new wild life panel in the Market Square, it is both attractive and informative; street furniture within the square should now be refurbished.

Litter control remains strong and an improvement on your performance of earlier in the summer has been noted; it would appear that the recycling receptacles are not being emptied frequently enough.

Well done on the cleanliness of the beach and foreshore area.