

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dundrum**

Ref: **744**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **197**

Category: **B**

Date: **27/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	197	193

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was puzzling to note that Dundrum had been entered by Knockavilla Community Council - is this not a problem in that Knockavilla Community Council are also working on their own village and therefore must be torn between the two? The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had not formulated a Three to Five Year Work Programme, as suggested in last year's report. This document need only be two or three pages long, outlining your planned objectives for the village's future and setting a timeframe against their achievement. It would be of great benefit to yourselves as it would set target dates for achieving your objectives and would also be of immense benefit to the adjudicators in order that they can assess your progress as the years go by. Perhaps, as last year was your first year of entry for some time, you had not had the opportunity to attend to this issue? But you will need to do so in the not too distant future!

The Built Environment:

There are a number of fine buildings in terms of architectural heritage such as the old neo Gothic garda station in sandstone in its prominent location and the charming old railway station. The latter is for sale and would make a magnificent guest house or restaurant. The industrial buildings on the Thurles Road generally looked fine although a curved roof to O'Dwyer's Steel which is for sale, should be painted up before too long. The Golden Vale Pub looked very fresh and cheerful and adjacent GV's in stone looked good. Centra was very fresh. The Eircom sub-station should be repainted before next year's competition as it appeared quite grubby at the base

Landscaping:

This category of the competition was generally good. The attractive Village Greens at centre of Dundrum make a very positive impression and planting outside the Garda station building was most appealing. Perhaps you could consider some sort of formalization of the centre space of the village in terms of the car parking areas etc., in order to define these areas in some way? The Planetarium on the Thurles Road contributes well to this category of the competition. Incidental landscaped spaces throughout were well presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Dundrum is very fortunate in this regard given the wealth of mature woodland areas that it can reap the benefit of. Perhaps you could consider working in conjunction with Coillte in order to develop a series of walks such as a wildlife trail in the Marl bog area? Have you consulted the local Wildlife Ranger, as suggested by last year's adjudicator? Another possibility would be the incorporation of a Nature Trail along the old railway track.

Litter Control:

This was a problem on the day in terms of a light scattering on approach roads and quite a lot on the magnificent Village Greens.

Tidiness:

The adjudicator was shocked to hear that you had to remove your recycling bins! As last year's report indicated that this area was fine, what happened in the meantime? The yard areas and roadsides in the vicinity of the old railway station were rather rough in appearance and created a bad impression. The entrance area to the GAA grounds looked fine, but the gates were a little bit flaky and the side wall facing the housing estate could be given some attention. At the moment it is just bare concrete block - could it be rendered, painted or a creeper grown up it, in order to improve its somewhat harsh appearance? A weedy yard area opposite the Garda Station looked unfortunate, as did the yard area beside the old railway station. Building materials appeared to have been abandoned at the car park area in the village centre. These should be removed once construction work is complete.

Residential Areas:

Houses and gardens along approach roads and in the village centre were generally well cared for on the day. Those in the housing estate were somewhat inconsistent in appearance - some looked extremely well and some looked rather neglected in comparison. An attractive house on the Tipperary Road was greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Thurles Road is well maintained and gives the visitor a good impression on entering village on this approach, with its attractively maintained grass verges. The stop signs in the centre of the village are very faded and neglected - could the road be marked more clearly as it must be a little confusing for those not familiar with this junction, especially given the poor condition of the stop signage? The urban street lamps on the Thurles approach were admired and suit this wide roadway. On the Tipperary Road, the gravelled footpath was admired, as was the planted bed by the nameplate sign. However, the junction sign was rather obscured by the hedgerows, which were a little overgrown and both the nameplate sign and the Children Crossing sign were a little patchy in their appearance. On the Cappaghwhite Road weeds were apparent at the kerbsides and the verge was a little bit overgrown. The wild daisies on this approach were admired but the village nameplate was quite grubby and virtually obscured by overgrowth.

General Impression:

Dundrum is a charming village with some fine aspects of architectural heritage and natural surroundings, but it is somewhat rough and inconsistent in its appearance. Some areas are to a high standard and others not so. You need to put down on paper, the work that needs to be achieved. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, the fact that Dundrum does not appear to have its own designated Tidy Towns Committee is somewhat worrying. Try to put down on paper your objectives before next year's competition. Good luck to all concerned and congratulations on improvements achieved to date.