

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dungarvan**

Ref: **403**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **240**

Category: **E**

Date: **04/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	240	236

Overall Developmental Approach:

Evidence of your excellent working relationship with your local commercial premises, your residents and your Local Authority was to be seen in many areas of Dungarvan on adjudication day. Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map. In the case of the latter could it be suggested that you provide a smaller one next year as this years was most difficult to handle when walking around and in the car. You got a very good additional mark last year. If this is to continue and in conjunction with your partners there will be a need for planning and attention to detail as many of the problems raised in last years report are still with you.

The Built Environment:

Dungarvan is very well endowed with public buildings – the vast majority of which were visited this year. Churches, Schools, Library, Civic Offices, Garda Station, Teagasc Building, Credit Union building, Tourist Information Office, etc all of which are being very well maintained and reflect great credit on those involved. Lovely work has been carried out on King Johns Castle and was much admired. The “Lookout” is maturing very nicely and is improving year by year. It is a lovely facility to have and looked exceptionally well on a lovely summers day. The Sports Centre nearby is also being well looked after as is its open spaces. The Causeway Bridge is being maintained very well and the new public toilet was also noted. Flags and lamp standards with hanging baskets in the vicinity of the bridge were much admired also and create a lovely atmosphere on that approach into the

town. As has been mentioned in previous reports, do seriously consider proposing to your Local Authority that the Quay be pedestrianised. It would be a lovely facility for the town and would greatly enhance that whole locality. Commercial premises throughout Dungarvan are being very well maintained. The new shopping centre is a fine building and fits in very well with what already exists. The Grotto on the Cork road is a lovely presentation.

Landscaping:

This is, without a doubt, the great strength of your Tidy Towns effort and, in this respect, this year is no exception. Wonderful landscaping was to be seen all over the town, on approach roads, in open spaces and car parks and, indeed, it seems that wherever an open space was discovered – someone planted flowers or shrubs. The landscaping on the Waterford /Cork by-pass is, without a doubt, exceptional. Work in progress in making further additions was noted on adjudication day. The whole presentation is a showpiece which must be very much admired by residents, visitors and those using the facility of the by-pass. Tubs of flowers, hanging baskets, window boxes and flower beds of all kinds presented throughout the town create a wonderful atmosphere and are being very well maintained. Great credit is due to all involved.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Neighbourhood is indeed a fine facility and will provide a lovely habitat for birds and animals. Wildlife boards in Abbeyside and at the Lookout were noted and the hope is that you will continue this work well into the future. If you have not already done so and if a survey has been carried out perhaps you would consider producing a piece of literature detailing the type of wildlife which can be seen in the locality and which would be useful for both residents and tourist alike and for distribution through your Commercial Premises, Library and Tourist Information Office.

Litter Control:

It would be nice to be able to say that Dungarvan was litter free on adjudication day. Unfortunately it was not. Litter was to be seen in Abbeyside, in the main streets, in the vicinity of the Lookout, the Sports Centre and indeed in many side streets throughout the town. In some areas pathways were festooned with cigarette butts which looked very unsightly. No doubt good work is being done in trying to deal with this problem but, in a centre the size of Dungarvan, and in the context of the Tidy Towns Competition, it needs to be monitored on a day to day basis.

Tidiness:

In general the town was presented in a neat and tidy manner. It was however noticeable this year that a certain amount of pavement advertising is appearing. It is appreciated that commercial premises need to advertise but this type of presentation should not be encouraged. It looks very untidy and in some cases could be a danger to people with restricted sight.

Residential Areas:

In general housing estates are being very well maintained and new ones looked very well with some lovely landscaping in their open spaces. In this respect Hollybrook on the Tramore was much admired. As the town increases in size the maintenance of open spaces, whether they are in the public or private domain, can become a problem and can get outside the scope of the voluntary effort very quickly. Perhaps part of your future planning could be an assessment of what sort of problems could arise in this respect in future years and, in the event, what sort of labour and

facilities could be provided to deal with the matter. Many housing estates were visited again this year and, as mentioned, are being well maintained. Individual houses also looked very well and, both individually and collectively, many houses have lovely gardens which were in full bloom and were a joy to see. This type of effort contributes greatly to the overall appearance of the town and all concerned are to be congratulated. As mentioned earlier tubs of flowers, hanging baskets, planters, flower beds and window boxes were a prolific throughout the town and looked wonderful. Hanging baskets from lamp standards create a lovely atmosphere and were much admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to Dungarvan are being very well maintained. Needless to say the Waterford approach, the Waterford / Cork by-pass and the Cork approach are exceptional but indeed other roads are also being well looked after and their grass verges were neatly presented. Road surfaces are good and pathways are being well looked after also. Tremendous credit is due to all concerned.

General Impression:

A lovely atmosphere prevails throughout Dungarvan. The biggest problem area is one of litter and perhaps some untidiness as mentioned above. Another determined effort next year with good planning and attention to detail will gain you further marks which could bring you within reach of achieving a major prize in the competition. Particularly in the area of landscaping, residential areas and the built environment maintenance will become all important in the future particularly if the town continues to grow as presently it is. In the competition the maintenance of what you already have is of major importance and must not, under circumstances, be neglected. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Dungarvan again next year to see further progress made.

Second Round Adjudication:

The only part of Dungarvan experienced by many tourists is the by-pass – therefore it is most appropriate that it has been so well developed and maintained. The only significant blemish on the by-pass is in the vicinity of Fairlane roundabout where development is awaited. Uneven surfaces leading into and in the town centre must create a poor impression for those who visit the town. The town centre displays a mix of standard of buildings – varying from the neglected to drab and those brightly painted. Completion of the new shopping centre is looked forward to – it will undoubtedly increase the vitality of the town centre. The inclusion of a multi-storey carpark is particularly welcome. Litter again was a significant problem. Parking on double yellow lines made it difficult to drive around the town centre. It was wonderful to see the rejuvenation of old buildings. Also the retention of many very fine old shop fronts is laudable. Finally, it is the main square in the centre of the town which has so much unrealised potential. It suffers at present with too many poles, lamp standards, traffic islands and carparking. Because of the nearby multi-storey carpark it is believed that it would be worthwhile to remove all carparking from this square to allow it become a truly urban space with new substantial trees, lighting and paving.