

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunkineely** Ref: **678**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **225**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Dunkineely has improved enormously since its first year of entry into the competition, when the current adjudicator, who has not been back till this year, was assigned. Progress may appear slow to those who live in the town and who work for its betterment, but to the outside visitor a great deal appears to have been achieved. Much of the recent work has been in the maintenance of what has been done before; as the standard is rising everywhere, this is most important. Your Five Year Plan is now in its penultimate year, and you could be thinking of adding to it for future years. One of the chief obstacles seems to be that of vacant houses and derelict sites; the local Authority has powers to deal with dereliction, powers which are rarely exercised except in extremis, but you may have to have recourse to this in some cases. Your useful map is in fact well out of date - it shows the railway in operation! - but there are very handy recently-printed small maps of village areas available from the Ordnance Survey which are used by most committees now which show recently built estates, etc. committees

The Built Environment:

The principal buildings are all looked after with care and taste - the school in its well kept grounds, the handsome Church of Ireland church, the pretty Methodist church (though its boundary wall still needs repointing) and the Community Centre, though the latter's grounds need considerable thought - the open car-park is somewhat daunting and would look better with a boundary fence or hedging, or better still a stone wall if finances will run to that, with an entry and an exit space and planting in between. The Laverty Design premises was admired and Baskin's was in the process of getting a new new coat of paint. More painting is needed throughout the town - a visit to Kilcar will demonstrate how greatly a street can benefit when all the buildings alongside it are painted.

Landscaping:

The picnic area near Castle View and the lawn opposite were looking very well on the date of the visit, as was the case last year. Effective roadside strimming was being done on the Donegal side of the town. Annuals in some tubs were not doing well - perhaps new soil is needed. There are good potential sites for further landscape projects, such as on the side road at the Fair Green which is rather bleak at present, also on a neglected corner opposite the new white houses, and if a major task can be contemplated, around the old railway arch on the Donegal road.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The environmental work on the shore road has been very worth while. The information board concentrating on the bird life of the area is most interesting, and the new wall in local stone makes gives a sense of imprtanace to the area. You might consider planting berry-bearing trees from the railway arch to the town sign on the Donegal road which would add to the appearance of this approach and also attract bird life. There is ample space in a number of open areas and in private properties for more tree-planing; conifers seem to flourish in this climate, also hazel, ash and sycamore.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter in Dunkineely on the date of the visit. Congratulations to those who took part in the litter clean-ups, and more particularly to those who simply do not drop their litter!

Waste Minimisation:

This is an average mark given in the first year of this new category - a category which will become more important as time goes on. The bring bank at the Community Centre was reasonable well kept. It is good to read that awareness is disseminated through the local press.

Tidiness:

Derelict buildings and vacant lot have already been referred to as a major blight, and the ultimate recourse had been mentioned above. The surroundings of the Community Hall needs some thought. Fencing near the GAA grounds was in need of repair. O'Donnell Motors is a well kept commercial roadside premises - would that similar premises in other towns would take the hint.

Residential Areas:

The new white houses are cleverly articulated to face the Donegal road. They certainly enhance this part of the town. Suggest that all householders provide window-boxes and get together to choose colours - this has been done very successfully elsewhere where themed colours are quite stunning - such as red on this house, blue on the next, etc, or all houses the same colour this year and a defferend colour the next. Several houses on the road to the strand have fine boundary walls or wooden fences; potential house builders in all quarters should be encouraged to do the same, and discouraged from using cement blocks. Two houses near the school needed freshening up with paint. This adjudicator liked the strong colours in Castle View, though it is a matter of personal taste. St Mary's Close and cottages nearby exude a feeling of charm. Well outside the judging area and therefore not marked is a lovely stone house that resembles an old stables conversion: developments of this kind should be encouraged.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Considerable roadwork was taking place on the main street and the results of this will be looked forward to next year. Traffic was seriously disrupted, but in any case there should be pedestrain traffic-lights installed because even at the best of times this is a very busy through road. The main road surfacing elsewhere, and road markings were good. The streetscape would be immeasurably improved by the remov al of unsightly poles and wires.

General Impression:

Your main problem, as you well know, is with derelict and unsightly buildings. Perhaps this should be concentrated upon without, however, neglecting other projects such as landscaping, for which there is great potential. Do not hesitate to lookat other towns and learn from their successes and also their mistakes. Every good wish for the continued good work.