

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Dunleer** Ref: **495**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **213**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **04/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	9
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>213</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Dunleer has improved enormously since this adjudicator's first visit about ten years ago. This was followed by the disruption of the sewerage scheme, and at the same time through traffic was getting worse. Now all visible trace of the scheme are gone, and traffic is considerably lessened. The village is now a much pleasanter place for the visitor to linger, and it must also be the same for its own residents, which is the important thing. Have you recruited new residents to your committee? – there must be a comparatively large influx of people from elsewhere in recent years. Your excellent may was excellent up to a point, but as you did not mark in any of the sites and locations which we should comment upon some of them may have been missed. Some, but not all, streets and housing developments do not have name plaques.

### **The Built Environment:**

The lovely brick Railway Station and the old Station Master's House that now contains the branch of the County Library remain as imponderables; it is clear that you have been to great trouble to have these fine buildings improved without success. The Local Authority has powers to take action over dereliction, and perhaps it is time that this was done. Apart from these black spots, other buildings looked well on the day of the visit. The new structure nearing completion on the Clogherhead Road is impressive in its design and workmanship (not marked on your map) – a school, perhaps? You should use your influence to ensure that tree-planting takes place surrounding it. The massive factory walls and entrances were well presented. The Seat sales centre was smart beside with its neat car-park. Victory's Centra made a bright statement in the streetscape and Wogan's was superbly turned out with an excellent colour scheme and first class lettering. O'Connor's is an attractive well-kept traditional frontage. The RC Church as usual was maintained with dignity.

### **Landscaping:**

A remarkably welcoming scene greets the visitor arriving on the N1 from the south side, with well trimmed

verges, lawns and landscaping. The approach from the north side is less impressive, but the opportunities there are fewer. The superb limestone sculpture provides an interesting focal point – it would take only a few seconds each week to clear the weed from its base. The lawns with seating which connect the RC Church with the housing beyond create a most pleasant recreational space. On the Dromin road there are well-kept grassy verges; and attractive planting was favourably noted at the entrance to Mountain View.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You mention on your entry form that you are responsible for Rathescar Lake – a formidable task, and well done – but it needed the Ordnance Survey to find it! Little seems to have been done in the way of clearing the banks of the White River, but it may well be that you believe this would be a disturbance to the wild life inhabitants; still, a very short section might be cleared as a peoples' amenity without disturbing the animals and birds over much. Signposting of such places, and illustrated sign boards of flora and fauna of the kind that have become so popular in other centres would be a useful addition. Curiously, the lane leading to the derelict station, with its high hedges and variety of trees and wild flowers, forms a very agreeable nature walk. You should mention all your activities on the entry form so that they will not go unheeded.

#### **Litter Control:**

You did note your Spring Clean-up and the Traders' Clean-up on the entry form. New or fairly new bins were seen. It was good to read that you are active in the schools. All this seems to have paid off, for there was great improvement in litter control this year, with only a minor scattering outside the Centra. However, the area round the railway station remained badly littered. Do you report littering, or does the litter-warden take any action? There is nothing like substantial fines, well-publicised, on visitors, traders and residents alike, to embarrass litter-louts where it hurts most.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Wogan's outdoor store is very neatly kept, but perhaps a screening hedge could be planted inside the boundary, or a neater kind of fence erected. A very unsightly building was seen beside the bridge on the main road. It was encouraging to see that a derelict site has been sold and it is hoped that the new owner will be successful in improving it. Weed control was good throughout the village at the time of adjudication.

#### **Tidiness:**

The clean-ups referred to above were favourably noted. The Bring Bank was not tidily maintained. Please study the explanation under this heading on the entry form and this may encourage a better mark next year.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The older houses in the village centre, and the cottages and smaller homes on the Dromin road, are what gives Dunleer its special charm. Of the more recent estates, Riverdale was seen to be well maintained with good planting and some attractive gardens of which the owners must be deservedly proud; an estate nearby under construction looks promising – be sure that the developers put in trees and shrubs. The mixed development in progress near the railway arch was most impressive and its completion will be eagerly awaited. Mountain View, and the estate beyond, is well looked after but there is plenty of space for more planting.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

It was good to see stone walls being improved, and new ones built, chiefly in the Clogherhead road area. There were some surprising roughnesses and potholes in some of the main roads, but in the estates to the west of the village surfaces were very good. You deep the boundaries of your approach roads very well, and what signage there is is clean.

#### **General Impression:**

To the passer-by Dunleer is a pleasant well kept village. At a closer look, there are some discrepancies, of which you are of course aware. The three most urgent tasks are to increase the force of your representations to the proper authorities about the railway station and its surroundings, to engage in more wild-life initiatives, and to have name-plates erected on all streets and estates. It was very good to see how much you have accomplished over the years, and your upward march seems to be assured.