

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunshaughlin** Ref: **577**
County: **Meath** Mark: **224**
Category: **E** Date(s): **11/07/2006**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 40 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 34 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 25 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 0 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 24 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 31 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 224 |

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Dunshaughlin to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the excellent map that was really useful on adjudication day and the copies of your Tidy Towns Newsletter and back-up documentation. It is obvious that Dunshaughlin has a very dedicated large committee of sixteen people which is very large by national standards. This is a strong indication of the commitment to Tidy Towns that exists in Dunshaughlin. Congratulations on your success in the Anti-Litter League, and Pride of Place 2005. The time that you take to visit the three schools and talk to them about the environment is great investment in the future of Dunshaughlin. Have you considered running a Junior Tidy Towns Competition? We would be very interested to hear further of your planned Heritage Project. It is so encouraging that you are making heritage a very important part of how you present Dunshaughlin and the cauldron and Donkey Cart projects are part of this.

The Built Environment:

It is great that the old church has found a new and appropriate use as the Dunshaughlin Library. The refurbished Garda Station is now a key building in Dunshaughlin and indeed it is excellently presented using pebble dash and a good colour choice. This is greatly enhanced by the colourful window boxes. The two building one of which include the Wine Bottle and Credit Union stand out with the light brick façade. Other properties that contribute to the overall presentation of Dunshaughlin include James Lawless with excellent signage but the five lamps appear a little large. At The Bus Shop the weed growth at the outside unit needs to be removed. Unfortunately there is still some plastic signage in Dunshaughlin that detracts from the overall impression of the town. An old building caught the eye opposite The Village Grill which has attractive small latticed windows to one side. The derelict cottage is presented in a manner that makes a feature of its property pending redevelopment. However the red painted areas need to be refreshed and the walls white-washed. On the Kilcock road the road boundary walls at the school need to be painted. At the Meath

County Council offices on the same road the beautiful roadside sculpture of the couple was much admired.

Landscaping:

The main landscaping work has gone into the presentation of the Main Street and this is highly effective. The 66 hanging baskets on the street, the further 69 hanging baskets at various shops and the flower boxes bring an excellent sense of colour to Dunshaughlin. The street is long enough to take this high level of landscaping. Well done to the committee on the high level of organisation that this presentation demands. The Amenity Park was visited and the planting of trees and shrubs and new grassed areas admired. It will take some time for this area to mature but the work done to date here is excellent. Good landscaping was noted at the corner of the Bank of Ireland building where clever design has created a suitable space for landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The provision of the six nesting boxes at the Picnic Park is a start in the development of the wildlife aspect of Dunshaughlin. Have you considered having a survey of the wildlife in the area carried out? This can lead to the provision of public information panels and there can be a link here with your heritage project.

Litter Control:

The provision of extra litter bins is welcomed and the daily litter roster though demanding in time terms is well worthwhile. However litter was noted in various areas of the Main Street, at the town end of The Knocks and much was noted opposite the Church of Ireland. Some rusty older litter bins were noted that need replacement. It is very important that your Committee would develop a litter control plan for Dunshaughlin. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play. Your plan should include such issues as surveying the litter bins that you have in your community and their adequacy, clean up days and the role of your local schools. Has your Tidy Towns Committee considered organising a litter survey to establish the generators of litter in Dunshaughlin? It is most important that litter bins are placed in close proximity to the largest generators of litter. The regular emptying of a litter bin is of course essential. Some litter bins may need replacement and this should be discussed with your Local Authority Engineer. Do remember that there are many different designs for litter bins. Some designs are more suitable for some locations than others.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Dunshaughlin for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses in the Dunshaughlin area to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. The adjudicator would like to wish the school well with the Green School programme.

Tidiness:

An untidy area with concrete blocks was noted at the town end of the Amenity Park, Outside the Post Office the rusty Post Box needs to be either replaced or repainted. The adjudicator is not in favour of the display of retail goods on the pavement as was noted in Dunshaughlin. Apart from looking rather untidy such displays can cause major difficulties for people in wheelchairs or the visually disabled. Is it possible to have the advertising signage clutter at The Village Grill road junction rationalized? The car park opposite this area was rather untidy with long grass, weeds and litter.

Residential Areas:

The major planting at The Knocks was examined and this will add greatly to the estate as the planting matures. At Supple Hall excellent central landscaping here provides a focus for that part of the estate; in Supple Park an untidy area was noted beside a concrete block wall. Some good landscaping is a feature of Seachnaill Place but some road boundary walls here need attention. In the centre of Dunshaughlin the pink ivy covered house was much admired. Other individual houses noted were well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On adjudication major road works were under way on the Dublin road and this involved resurfacing and new

footpaths. Very good private hedging was noted on this road into Dunshaughlin. The Ratoath approach road was the least well present road with verges and banks rough and uncut. This road gave rise to similar comments last year and the Dunshaughlin name sign this year was also partly obscured by growth.

General Impression:

Dunshaughlin is a busy town with a lot of through traffic. The work done on landscaping in the Main Street is really excellent and adds so much to the overall presentation of Dunshaughlin. The adjudicator would like to wish you well with your 2007 plans.