

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Daingean** Ref: **620**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **231**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	19
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	231

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your comprehensively completed application form and attached map. As was the case last year the map submitted was a little dated and did not show newer developments that have occurred since this was revised in 1910! Anyway good to note that the Committee has fostered worthwhile links with the Co Council and agencies such as FAS ,Offaly Leader and the local partnership Oak. The Tidy Towns Committee should be a feeder committee of say 5 that report into the main Development Association as it can be difficult to get decisive decision from 25 to 30 people. An updated version of plan alluded to in last years report would have been very beneficial. That said Daingean has improved immeasurably since this adjudicator last visited some 5/6 years ago.

The Built Environment:

Daingean has a wonderful wide streetscape with some rather exceptional buildings and attractive shop frontages. The Town Hall has been restored since this adjudicator last visited and it certainly has a major positive effect on the overall look of the core of the town. The RC Church and grounds was very well maintained with the colourful geranium filled pots and beds a sight to behold. The work on the National School across from the Church was still ongoing and the extension being built is rather unusual in design. The following premises deserve mention for the manner in which they were presented and maintained; Midwae Installations, Ryan's Pharmacy, Midway Hotel, Quinns Centra and Mangan's Butchers with its excellent shop front. It's a pity that the Lock House an integral part of Daingean's Canal History cannot be restored.

On the negative side there are a number of old plastic type signs in existence and hopefully these will be gradually replaced.

Landscaping:

The individual flowerpots and planters were a sight to behold with a selection of healthy geraniums to the forefront. The same comment applies to individual gardens observed in and around the town. The Canal Bank Park on the Edenderry Road is very large and hard to maintain, some benches were in a poor state and need to be repaired and treated with wood preservative. This area could be re-generated and made more vibrant and the Committee should consider seeking advice from the horticultural section of Offaly County Council. The relatively new berthing area was landscaped to a high standard. The fact that all plants have been seeded and grown in the local Horticultural Tunnel shows that local endeavour and cooperation is worth the effort. Well done in obtaining a high standard in this category.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The town has a number of areas that facilitate the conservation and the promotion of wildlife particularly at the extended canal and of course the designated area at the back of the C of I. It would be worthwhile if the Committee consider assistance from some local wildlife enthusiasts with knowledge of the local hinterland to help devise a project that would embrace involvement from the local schoolchildren.

Litter Control:

The Committee is to be lauded for its efforts to promote good litter control among all sections of the Community and especially the school kids as they will become the adults of the future and many will be the lifeblood of Daingean. The standard was very acceptable with the exception of one area in particular, unfortunately that was the same area mentioned in last year's report.

Waste Minimisation:

As this is a new classification in this year's competition many committees are still trying to see how their villages or towns can benefit and still gain marks in this category. Race Against Waste is a campaign to raise the issue of better waste management and committees should not confuse this with the problem. Consulting the publication forwarded with application form will give an indication of initiatives that can be undertaken under this category.

Tidiness:

There were one or two operating commercial premises that had too much fly posting on windows and of course this a practice not peculiar to Daingean. A few derelict buildings were noted and it is sad to see such a fine premises as P Byrnes Garage and shop seemingly closed and petrol pumps rusting. The adjudicator is aware of the dereliction and hopefully your interaction with Offaly County Council will have positive results. The Bottle Bank at the Church Car Park was kept in a tidy condition with no overflows noted on the day.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was very acceptable and the older established estates were in good condition with a few exceptions and that is to be expected as not every one is into tidy towns. The Committee deserve credit for encouraging residents to maintain properties in an acceptable manner, and it is hoped that in time people outside the loop will come on board. The Town Houses in the centre of Daingean, adjacent to Ryan's, were admired and were well kept although grass needs to be cut in the little communal area. These obviously were designed to integrate in with the existing town architecture, which has a number of fine Georgian premises many of which have attractive pebble dashed fronts.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Tullamore entrance is enhanced by the Canal Bank Park which has semi mature trees in place and the road surface was good

The difficulty with this area is its size and the issue re maintenance has been addressed in a previous section.

The Rhode Road down by the GAA Grounds was not in very good condition because of the poor road surface and it is hoped that you can mobilise your local representatives to influence its Council to take action.

Overall the grass verges were maintained in a manner conducive to the conservation of all species of wildlife.

General Impression:

It was nice to re visit and traverse Daingean after a good number of years, and unfortunately I did not have time engage in a game of golf at your attractive Golf Course down the Canal.

The Town has made good progress in the Competition and it was noticeable that it has become, like most Irish towns, more vibrant in colour. The Celtic Tiger has done away with our conservatism and people have responded accordingly.

The greater Canal Area has potential for sustainable development that will benefit the Town economically as well as aesthetically but this is for another forum.

The Lock House could be a starting point.

Overall a very nice and pleasant experience to report on.

Keep up the good work