

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dun Laoghaire** Ref: **843**
County: **Dublin (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)** Mark: **236**
Category: **F** Date(s): **10/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	236

Overall Development Approach:

Dun Laoghaire is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included excellent enclosures "The Dun Laoghaire Way", "The Dun Laoghaire Experience", "The Oratory" and of course your two year action plan. Dun Laoghaire enjoys an enviable location with wonderful scenic views and it is good to note your information panel in the centre with details of amenities. We look forward to your Festival of World Cultures in August. Well done on your partnership approach with a variety of agencies and local businesses and schools.

The Built Environment:

Many retailers present their shop fronts to a high standard; "Yours Personally" looked particularly well with its interior lighting and lack of solid security shutters. Hopefully the large premises opposite the Venture Photographic Studios which has been recently sold will enjoy a good standard of presentation given its scale and impact on the streetscape. The Gastro Pub Company has an attractive roadside presentation which enhances its streetscape. Scot's Café Bar has a particularly attractive, ornate shop front and could be considered for an award, however its window poster detracts somewhat from an otherwise excellent presentation. Ecclesiastic buildings are beautifully presented and the Dun Laoghaire Methodist Church was especially admired. Contemporary buildings such as the library and Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre were admired also. It was a surprise to see a dated plastic neon fascia sign on the Lido Café.

Landscaping:

The town centre has a number of hard landscaped amenity areas of which you can be proud as they make a

strong positive impact and of course provide for the amenity needs of the population; Dun Laoghaire has been considered for a landscape award for its excellence on this regard. Many of Dun Laoghaire's roads are graced by lines of semi mature and mature trees and flower displays throughout the town were admired for their colour and profusion. The small roundabout near the library was overtaken by weed growth at the time of adjudication, which is surprising given the standard throughout the town, especially the wonderful planted roundabout at the harbour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The People's Park is a wonderful amenity and one that has earned you an award in the past. We note the existence of seals and the intention to erect interpretive panels on birdlife, perhaps these could be accompanied by other marine wildlife boards such as seals and fish. The goal under this heading is for the promotion of wildlife and heightening public awareness in addition to protection of wildlife habitats. With this in mind perhaps a wildlife survey might be undertaken as a starting point.

Litter Control:

While litter control was quite good, the standard achieved was not as good as that achieved for your neighbouring Tidy Town centres. Weak points in relation to litter control were Dun Leary Hill and Cumberland Street. Dunnes Stores on Northumberland Avenue suffered also in this respect and on the road from the church to the harbour, a substantial amount was noted at the Bloomfield Shopping Centre also. Your litter control activities may have to be re-evaluated. Don't forget to segregate litter collected for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on your waste minimisation awareness program in the town's primary school and your liaison with businesses regarding litter and cleanliness to the front of their premises. Bearing in mind that the overall goal here is to reduce the amount of waste produced by the community, a waste audit might be undertaken perhaps starting with schools and business with a view to minimizing the amount produced. We wish you every success in your negotiations with the council regarding your requirements under this heading. It is unusual not to have a recycling facility for a town the size of Dun Laoghaire.

Tidiness:

The overall appearance of Dun Laoghaire is one of tidiness however your weed control program as well as your graffiti elimination activities may need to be reviewed as both were a feature at a number of locations on the day of adjudication. Weeds were quite high inside the railing along the DART line on Crofton Road. This is a problem shared by almost every other participating town and village in the competition.

Residential Areas:

Well done on your leaflet distribution to resident associations on the encouragement to enter the Tidy District Competition. We wish you every success on the installation of the commemorative public seat. It is important to encourage residents to pay particular attention to their roadside boundary walls and any grassed areas between these and the public road. Handsome terraces of period houses are a characteristic feature of Dun Laoghaire and most of course are being well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Overall street furniture looked quite well, however a number of seats along Crofton Road needed attention. While it was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect of your main thoroughfares, the wirescape in some side area was visually intrusive. Road and footpath surfaces were quite good throughout.

General Impression:

The overall appearance of Dun Laoghaire is most favourable and it was good to note your Tidy Towns action plan which has highlighted all of the problematic areas and suggested ways of overcoming these. We wish you every success in its implementation.