

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dundrum**

Ref: **1328**

County: **Dublin (Dun
Laoghaire-Rathdown)**

Mark: **200**

Category: **G**

Date(s): **18/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	200

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Dundrum to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition and your entry is important to that competition. It is recommended that the first thing that the new Committee might do is to agree on the boundaries within which you will work for Tidy Towns. Normally this is about 1 km from the entry centre but in your area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Dundrum and work within these. The supporting documentation for this might then be submitted with your 2008 entry. It is suggested that at an early date that your Tidy Towns Committee considers the preparation of a simple 3 Year Tidy Towns Action Plan that would detail year by year the projects that you wish to undertake for Tidy Towns. When preparing the Plan it would be helpful to talk to any local organisations or agencies that may have an interest in the Competition

The Built Environment:

Dundrum was the first or one of the first areas in Ireland in 1971 to develop a purpose built Shopping Centre and now it has the beautiful Dundrum Town Centre development that in design terms ranks quite highly. This appears to have come at a cost however in that the old 'Dundrum' seems to be struggling for survival in the midst of new development that appears to be taking place nearly everywhere. The standard of new buildings is quite high and the magnificent external elevations of the Mill Theatre were much admired by the adjudicator. The Credit Union is another building of note for different reasons. This building appears to have been accommodated on a site with quite a narrow frontage onto Main Street frontage and the brick elevation here helps to blend the building with the older surviving brick buildings along the Main Street. The car park of the Dundrum Shopping Centre was quite untidy with litter and rubbish at the upper end of the red roadside railings. These railings need to be repainted. The beautiful Luas Bridge is a keynote expression of the new progressive Dundrum and the design is really beautiful. However older fine buildings also survive and these include the two storey red brick Pembroke Terrace. Some of the older Granite buildings or buildings of Granite

and red brick echo earlier times in the development of Dundrum. The good use of colours and the hand painted lettering of Dundrum House stand in the streetscape. Another well presented building is Dundrum College where good landscaping adds to the overall visual effect. Projecting signs on retail premises are a problem in Dundrum and this practice should be discouraged by the Planning Authority.

Landscaping:

Attractive colourful hanging baskets were displayed at a number of premises in the centre of Dundrum and those at The Nest and The Eagle stand out. Good clear lettering is another good feature of these premises. Some good small landscaped areas were examined including that at the junction of Kilmacud Road Upper and Ballinteer Road.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Marks are awarded in the competition for steps taken to research the wildlife in an entry area and the subsequent promotion of the survey results. This is an aspect of the competition that the Tidy Towns Committee might like to examine at an early date.

Litter Control:

Litter control on the day of the visit was found to be quite good considering how busy the centre of Dundrum is on a daily basis. Bad litter was noted at the car park at the Dundrum Shopping Centre and on the Dundrum bye-pass. One of the most disappointing areas in terms of litter was the Kilmacud Road Upper / Ballinteer Road junction where large quantities of litter was noted. The Lower end of Sandyford Road also had litter problems on adjudication day.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre was extremely poorly presented and the graffiti here was very bad. This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Dundrum for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in the Dundrum area is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses in Dundrum to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact.

Tidiness:

Grffiti is a local problem and this was noted in several locations for example inside the blue gates across the road from the Credit Union. There are many other untidy areas associated with ongoing building works but your marks in this category have not been negatively impacted by this development programme.

Residential Areas:

In an area the size of Dundrum it is impossible in one paragraph to sum up the overall standard. However the standards observed in the estates visited was reasonably good. The following recommendations are offered by the adjudicator who suggests that the Tidy Towns Committee bring these points to the attention of all estates and residential areas in Dundrum.

- Road boundary walls will probably need to be painted twice each year especially on busy roads.
- Gable end walls though sometimes difficult to paint should be painted when the rest of the house is being painted.
- Timber fencing will require treatment at least twice per year.
- All estates should be encouraged to provide entrance name signs and directional signage within the estate.
- Green open space grass areas will need to be cut frequently if a quality presentation is to be achieved. Remember that grass will probably have to be cut back from the top of kerbing by hand. The provision of a few well chosen trees can often transform an open space.
- Areas to the back of estates can sometimes become dumping areas for cut grass and other materials.

- Simple landscaping at individual houses can often be very effective if the proper trees and shrubs are planted.

- By their nature estates can sometimes have litter control problems and this must be addressed by each individual estate in the town.

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It is suggested that your committee might like to consider the possibility of running a Tidy Estates Competition involving the estates in the area. It is likely that you will be able to find a local sponsor or sponsors who would be prepared to fund the prize fund. The prizes should ideally be in the form of vouchers for estate maintenance equipment or for landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads to Dundrum were well presented with good roadside grass verge areas, mature trees and along several roads fine stone walls. The regular cutting of these roadside verges is critically important if a crisp green appearance is to be achieved.

General Impression:

It has been an interesting experience for the adjudicator to revisit Dundrum after an absence of about thirty years! The new Dundrum is certainly exciting. Good luck with your 2008 projects.