

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Dunleer** Ref: **495**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **229**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **01/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	9
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>229</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Dunleer is making good progress in this competition and each year, an improvement is noted with a significant increase in marks recorded this year. This is an exceptionally good effort for a Committee of 6 people and it is considered that a recruitment drive would be beneficial as the size of the town would seem to require more resources. It is hoped that as the village expands (as illustrated by the current level of housing construction) and new residents move into these new housing developments, new members can be attracted to the Committee. It is good to see also that the Committee are involved with the local primary school and the links are being established with the secondary school also. It is recommended that the schoolchildren continue to be encouraged to participate in more tidy towns activities like the national spring clean, waste minimisation and wildlife projects. The Committee is to be commended on its co-operation with the County Council, Fas, Louth LEADER, local businesses and sports clubs. Can contacts be made with the various residents associations in the town in order to co-ordinate efforts? These contacts will be very valuable for getting work done. The adjudicator would also like to commend the Committee on a very informative and detailed entry form and the very well prepared action plan. The Committee is also encouraged to continue to take the comments of the adjudicators on board each year.

### **The Built Environment:**

The built environment of Dunleer is quite attractive with an interesting mix of old and new buildings. The main street is characterised by some lovely older buildings and shopfronts such as O'Connors, which make a very positive contribution to the streetscape. The bank is also an attractive building that complements the period terraced buildings along the Main Street, while the street furniture observed is very attractive. Despite the difference in height, the newer buildings like the Bia Restaurant seem to harmonise well with the older structures in the town and it is hoped that the building opposite (which was recently sold) becomes a success. The residential areas are also a nice mix of older established residential developments with new modern

schemes with different materials and finishes. A few problems persist. The interface of Wogans with the street is poor with a poor quality fence and building materials on view. There is also a building beside it in poor condition with weeds on the roof. These issues are noted in your action plan and it is hoped that these issues can be remedied for 2008. Dereliction remains a concern and it is recommended that issue is given a priority in your action plan. The Old Railway Building continues to be a problem, while the library building does not appear in very good condition. It is hoped that a beneficial use can be found for the Old Railway Building soon.

### **Landscaping:**

The hard work put into landscaping by the Committee was noticeable in this category. The adjudicator was impressed with the examples of good quality planting that were observed during adjudication day. These include the trees on southern approach road and the nice planting around the pump. The limestone sculpture is very attractive and the planting used is very effective and provided lovely summer colours in this central location. The hanging baskets used by business are also effective. Attractive planting was also noted on the Ardee Road and probably the most impressive planting and landscaping in Dunleer was observed outside the Dunleer industrial estate. On the Clogherhead Road, quite a lot of effort seems to have been spent on the Clogherhead Road bridge and at the Clogherhead Road junction. The planting boxes outside the Bitech factory were also observed. There some opportunities for planting around the Bank of Ireland and also in the car park adjoining

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

This area is an excellent opportunity for Dunleer to improve their performance. The Committee are to be commended on their improvements to their maps and signage – the adjudicator had no problem finding Rathanscar Lake. This was considered to be a very impressive and a lovely facility with lots of potential. Improvements are possible – the paths are poor in places and this makes it difficult to negotiate during wet weather, so some additional surface dressing would be an improvement. Additional information signs could be provided and existing ones improved. The river walk beside the Bia Restaurant also has some potential – can this be extended? This is noted as an action in your plan, so an update on this in the 2008 entry form would be useful.

### **Litter Control:**

On the day of adjudication, it was observed that a reasonable standard of litter control has been achieved in Dunleer and this is a reflection of the work of the Committee / Fas in undertaking effective litter patrols and their involvement (with the School) in the National Spring Clean. Some black spots were identified however, which should be given some attention. These include the area around the health centre, around the Centra shop, on the lane down to the bring banks and also around the Old Station and finally on the road beyond the Bia Restaurant (close to Mountain View).

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The category of waste minimisation was introduced in 2006 and it is becoming particularly important in the competition. It is a big opportunity for Dunleer as the marks could be improved. The bring bank at the Old Railway Station is important as the availability of recycling facilities is a key component in the waste minimisation strategy. The Committee is encouraged to give priority to the additional actions noted in your action plan to minimise waste such as running an awareness campaign of reducing, reusing and recycling at a local level and investigating the provision of composting areas so that the resulting compost can then be used in their ongoing landscaping projects. Actions such as these will significantly improve your performance in this category in future years.

### **Tidiness:**

In general, it is considered that a reasonable standard of tidiness has been achieved. No clutter of signage was evident and all signage appeared in fairly good condition. Some improvements could take place however. A lot of weeds were noticeable on the Clogherhead Road bridge and the railway bridges. The wall on the health centre was damaged and it looked untidy, the car park area beside wogans was in very poor condition, with very poor surfacing and a lot of weeds evident, the litter bins could be cleaned / painted as a number are in poor condition while the Bitech Factory has an untidy appearance due to weeds and a broken sign. Finally, the area beside and behind the bank requires some attention due to its untidy appearance.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard of residential areas in Dunleer is good. River Vale was quite nice appearing well maintained with a nice open space with planting observed, this was despite the presence of a building site behind. The residential area behind the old market house was also generally very well kept with lovely mature trees visible.

Shamrock Grove is very impressive and possibly the best in the town, while mountain view needs attention, it forms a poor approach to the town from the north east. It is noticed that a number of estate have no names indicated and none are marked on the map submitted. It is suggested that this matter is addressed for next year.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approaches are generally quite nice but more attention needs to be paid to maintaining verges and removing weeds. Surfacing is a problem on the Main street and particularly on the pavements on Ardee Street, which need significant work. There also seems to be a problem with the maintenance of back lanes, which were generally not good.

**General Impression:**

This is an improved performance for Dunleer. The adjudicator is confident that your high quality action plan and hard work of the Committee (which can hopefully attract some new members), Dunleer will continue to progress in this competition in 2008.