

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Daingean** Ref: **620**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **233**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
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	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	233

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the entry form and updated five year plan. It is noted that the Development association has links with other groups and relevant agencies such as Offaly County Council and Leader.

Daingean is rich in history and local heritage and the committee has embraced this in providing excellent summary in the plan submitted. It would be good to see this presented to the public in form of information panels or similar in the town.

The committee rightly identifies derelict sites as a constraint in the town so continued efforts to engage with the owners here will hopefully pay off. Boarding up windows and doors with plywood and painting same, with cleaning frontages may improve the situation as a temporary measure and is acceptable from Tidy Towns perspective.

There is evidence of good organisation and planning and it bodes well for the future of Daingean. Best wishes to all.

The Built Environment:

Some beautiful buildings well presented along this street. Lots of old features retained such as curved doorways and what look like original shopfronts
The midway park hotel looks smart with trees outside and trellises – complimentary building other side in same stone. One can see the trees going up whole way along this street on entry, which is lovely.

The esb building could take a bit more care of surroundings. Looks unused and overgrown. There is a lovely

feature, miniature stone tower with stone circle around

The new houses which are not painted yet are plain looking and will look better once they are painted.

Buildings deserving a mention are centra and mooneys butchers and the houses beside mooneys which are maintained in warm colours

It's a shame there are so many run down building fronts in town. The one with petrol pumps is deteriorating badly.

The town hall is a marvellous asset, as is the reformatory.

Landscaping:

The canal side area is very good, well landscaped and attractive, as is the daingean joinery corner with bench. Unfortunately quite a lot of litter under bridge which is a litter black spot. It is a popular hang out with some young people there at time of visit. There could be trails developed here for waterside walks.

Well done to angling club for maintaining part of canal side

Lovely landscaping around town hall.

Unusual stone circle and big planters in front of Church of Ireland tower and stone wall

Some landscaping started off there with a little beech tree but stopped – shows signs maybe that there aren't enough volunteers?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There are various habitats around Daingean. Unfortunately I couldn't find the holy well despite looking for quite a while according to location on the map. Sorry to have missed it, but there were no signs and it wasn't promoted at all. There was no way to access it down side of canal far as I could see so I tried from town, and drove up a track to an esb building. I suspect I was in the general area. In front of town hall there should be a heritage info sign like in other towns in offaly (really good ones in banaher and shannonbridge). There's a wealth of heritage and history to this little village and looks like they're all behind it and development approach is great but get some signs up, get the information out there to see.

There are several different habitats for wildlife around Daingean. It is good that advice is sought from the heritage officer

Litter Control:

Unfortunately quite a lot of litter under the bridge. This black spot area would need vigilant attention and it is noted there are efforts being made to have it lit up. This would be a good idea. Litter bins should be replaced especially around the town hall after its lovely restoration job. Benches are fine. Bedding containers fine. Litter bins are shabby and let it down. Rusty sign especially saying cosys sponsors it. The notable litter black spot was opposite centra on the corner. Also on south side of canal near the esb hut, much old clothes and household rubbish dumped. This is out of general view but nevertheless a dumping site to be monitored vigilantly.

Waste Minimisation:

There is no mention of projects planned in this area and it is one where significant marks could be gained. Liaise with the County Council Environmental Awareness Officer for assistance with promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling in the community. Is the school a green school? Refer to the Race Against Waste guide for information.

Tidiness:

Very neat path and grass verge on way in and newly surfaced road where the markings need to be redone. Nicely cobblelocked outside front of gala shop.

There are too many signs around the blackthorn. Could these be tidied up?

All the works going on in the main st. are causing disruption here – maybe to put electrics to new houses. Until this work is finished, the town will look untidy.

A minor approach by murrays bridge leaves a lot to be desired. There are lots of weeds and dilapidated buildings with plain, dirty concrete walls and corrugated iron, without defined border when the wall stops and no fence continues.

Is there a reason why the post office always has the shutter down?

The old water pumps could be improved by repainting

There are some criss cross cables but mostly the wires are in parallel which gives a tidy streetscape overall.

Church of Ireland is an imposing backdrop, as is the town hall. The roadways been freshly painted – that's lookin good. Lot of the pavements broken up. But lots of it neat and tidy as well.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas, old and new, are all acceptable. There is one quite new, where a few trees down the back would be good to block view of industrial site but it is clean. Mix of old houses and new. Efforts made with planters in the older areas. There are likely to be residents associations there well established. Residents in the newer areas should form their own associations if they haven't yet done so and get support to bring on a bit with plantings, rockeries and beds.

The terraced houses with pointy porches and yellow door cottage taking great pride in their upkeep.

Residential area opposite neat and tidy and clean and presentable with a few scraps of litter

This other residential area here opp mooneys butchers. Very lovely in presentation, green especially has some great plantings

Seen big stack of loose bin bags – wonder is there no wheely bin collection here yet – that'll help with presentation of waste. Laneway there very overgrown and looks like some material dumped so a litter black spot that'd have to be watched. Laneway opp looks private

The residential area opposite centra unfortunately had a lot of litter. The wall was broken but otherwise a presentable area. It probably suffers from its proximity to the shop and the wall is a litter trap but it would need regular clean-ups and monitoring.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Daingean benefits from a wide sweeping curve in from the Edenderry side, with very neat and attractive wooden fencing all the way along the side to bring you in. There is good lighting here but the verge was a bit overgrown. Pleasant approach from this side and welcome sign up which is good to see, lovely row of poplars, some other nice trees on right. Approach from Tullamore side is not as nice. Its very overgrown with a couple laybys with picnic benches totally hidden by overgrowth. Welcome sign good, some trees, overall its not very well kept, which may be because of areas out of the committees control. The derelict building on this approach is also very noticeable.

Roads, streets and back areas are good, clear. The back lane opposite centra is acceptable, no litter

General Impression:

Daingean has an interesting heritage and the community is well organised, has good planning skills and a sense of pride in their town. Looks like a village that's under renewal and can only keep improving.