

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dungarvan** Ref: **391**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **240**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

Dungarvan is a lively community and worth so much more than the passing glance given to it by many motorists. A large and busy committee is assisted by the County Council, Fas and the Gowran parish, as you state on your informative entry form. This adjudicator had never been to the village before and was much taken by what he found.

The Built Environment:

Undoubtedly the centrepiece of the village is the fine modern Church which is attractively painted, with the gable of the Community Hall to match. A pity that cement blocks have been used to fill the upper portion of the Gothic windows of the latter. The ruined church tower adjacent creates a romantic picture from the past. The Ouncel House is well presented, with its bright red paint and hanging baskets; ideally uPVC windows are not recommended for a traditional building, but it could be argued that from a distance there is no difference.

Landscaping:

The remarkably prominent incised name stone, with bright tubs and stone tables, welcomes the visitor to the village. There is a pleasing selection of shrubs and flowers at the Grotto; the little framed list is a touching measure of remembrance. The churchyard is really beautifully maintained, with its spacious lawn stretching to open fields and woodland. The graveyard surrounding what is probably the former Protestant church is commendably well kept. Some tidying-up has still to be achieved at the back of the hall.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There are wonderful opportunities for the encouragement and conservation of wildlife in the neighbourhood. Your comment that 'with limited public spaces it is difficult to facilitate wildlife' seems somewhat negative;

animals and birds do not confine themselves to public spaces! Why not take a look at what has been achieved in this regard in other small communities, such as Tullahought for instance – not to copy, but to see what can be done with minimal resources. The presence of a new amenity area was favourably noted.

Litter Control:

There was very little disposable litter in Dungarvan at the date of the visit. Congratulations. It is exemplary that each household should be responsible for its immediate area; would that other communities would follow suit.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a topic that will become more and more important as time goes on. It is excellent that residents should have their own recycling facilities. Last year's adjudicator asked for details of how this is achieved.

Tidiness:

An untidy entrance on the west side of the road from Thomastown was seen, as well as broken walls, a broken fence and the remains of a house. Your difficulty with dereliction has been sympathetically noted. The County Council has powers to deal with this matter and should be pursued because, as you say in your notes, nothing has been done.

Residential Areas:

This is a very high mark. The people of Dungarvan keep their homes with a real sense of pride. Many houses have most attractive front gardens. The quaint (former?) alms-houses (or are they estate-houses?) are most attractive, a unique relic from history. It is important that they should be preserved before some of them deteriorate further. Nore Vale House is especially noteworthy; the frontage does need a bit of tidying up but the owners are to be congratulated for its preservation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are excellent. New footpaths to the graveyard were favourably noted. It is good to read that your FAS worker maintains the approaches – this explains how well they are kept.

General Impression:

There were no major initiatives this year, but your total marking is already remarkable high in comparison to other centres. You need to take action where marking of individual categories – such as Wildlife and Waste Management – is less impressive. It is of course understood that it is difficult enough to maintain standards let alone try to improve them. As it is, Dungarvan is an example of the careful nurturing of a much-loved place.