

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunnamaggan** Ref: **1210**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **201**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	6
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	201

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form. The information given on it is somewhat sparse – you may be denying yourselves additional marks but these can not be allocated without you letting us know of your activities: for example, how do school children participate in your work or what steps you take to sustain and encourage wild life or if you plant bulbs for spring showing, etc etc: such things are invisible to us and we need the kind of information from you that is given plentifully by other committees. Last year's adjudicator asked you for a description of your plans. On your map you do not name the buildings or places of interest – other than drainage man-holes. We try to see everything but without a map it is possible that some features may escape notice. Why not look at another village of roughly the same size – Kells perhaps, or Tullahought – not to copy but to see what can be achieved, sometimes in quite difficult terrain.

The Built Environment:

The church was beautifully presented within and without; this is the architectural centrepiece of the village and it is most impressive. The Credit Union building is well kept. The GAA club building is well looked after, as are its entrance gates. The ancient ruined building is interesting – you do not say anything about it nor is it named on your map; it probably has a remarkable history. At present it needs attention because there has been a fall of stones. The school buildings are nicely looked after; so is the Public House in its prominent location.

Landscaping:

The most successful landscaping project is undoubtedly the church grounds – trim lawns, well placed shrubs, neat paths and a lovely background of woodland. Some of the street tubs are not so successful, partly because of the curious mix of plants in them. Why not try, for example, geraniums in one, petunias in the next, and so on. In the fine graveyard grass had either been poisoned or left to rot, giving an unpleasing brown effect; the path was clear of weeds. The surroundings of Tobar San Lionard were a bit overgrown: this could

be a location for a wild life project, such as the placing of bird boxes. Hedging and ditching was seen to be in progress opposite the Holy Well and should improve this location considerably which finished.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You do not mention what projects you are undertaking or plan to undertake under this heading so last year's adjudicator was only able to suggest a nominal mark. Unfortunately it is the same again this year. Why not, for example, initiate a bird watching competition in the school, with a prize for the highest number of types of birds seen; or get pupils to make an inventory of all the species of trees in the neighbourhood? You could be planting more shrubs that sustain bird life during the winter, such as cotoneaster along walls where they would also make a pleasing autumn and winter show. You might introduce ducks to the river, or create a duck pond if the flow is too strong. Whatever you undertake, be sure to mention the activity on your entry form.

Litter Control:

Dunamaggan was reasonably free of litter in comparison to other villages on adjudication day. This must be due to your regular litter-picking. Congratulations on your endeavours, and do continue this upward trend.

Waste Minimisation:

The bring bank was neat and tidy. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, you could study the Race against Waste booklet and see where you can take initiatives that will suit your own situation.

Tidiness:

Most of the village was relatively tidy, though places that could do with improvement were the site opposite the Bar, and the Callan road where grass clippings had been left on the verges giving a poor initial impression of the village which changed once you arrived in the village itself.

Residential Areas:

The longer established houses in the village looked very well, some with very pleasant front gardens making a colourful impact on the street. St Leonard's Court is very neat indeed, but still a little bleak; more planting would help to soften the edges here.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your mark here is high. Road surfaces are excellent. The GAA car park was spotless on the date of the visit. Parking spaces at the Church are well defined and well maintained. There is excellent stonework on the bridge and the approaches to the bridge. This is all very positive.

General Impression:

The impression is of an attractive and lively village beginning to come to terms with its man-made and its natural environment. The prospect may be challenging, but determination, hard work and good taste will quickly bring the standard up to that of other villages which have been in the competition for a long time. Do help yourselves by providing more information about your activities and plans – as indicated above, you may be doing yourselves out of marks by not doing so. A greatly increased mark will be looked forward to next year.