

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Daingean** Ref: **620**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **249**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	249

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks to Daingean Development Association, for your clear and concise application form and map, which were very useful on Adjudication Day. Have you considered putting together a 3-5 year work programme? This would help to clarify your thoughts and plans for the town and give you a clear objective in relation to achieving your aims. This document need only be a few pages long, outlining your plans and putting a time-scale against their achievement. It will be an invaluable document as adjudicators will clearly be able to see what your plans are. It will also prove very useful in terms of you being able to clearly see your own achievements as time goes by. You would appear to have a good relationship with Leader, Offaly County Council, the local National School and the Oak Partnership. You mention dereliction as being an issue and we wish you all the best in relation to your communications with the local authority in relation to resolving these ongoing problems

The Built Environment:

There is a most attractive vernacular outbuilding on the Rhode Road with associated adjacent rose bed. The attractive brick building on Main Street was also admired – these are unusual pieces of architectural heritage. In terms of public buildings and commercial premises, these were generally quite fresh including Centra, Mooneys Butchers and the Fire Station. The Midway Park Hotel had some damage to its signage, which should be repaired before next year's competition. Do ensure that render is not removed from vernacular street buildings to reveal the stonework below as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can lead to problems with water penetration. The town has a lovely wide main street and generally well presented buildings looked smart but were interspersed with a few empty sites and derelict properties. The centrally located old garage was greatly admired and would benefit from restoration. There are some very attractive fine arched doorways. Work was also needed to the magnificent Courthouse building in its prominent location. Ryans Pharmacy, the Garda Station and the Library were all fresh. The Health Centre

appeared a little stained. The school green flag was proudly flying, new trees were evident and curved modern extension. The old school will need repainting before next year's competition. The old building opposite the ruined church looks most attractive and it was noted that it had been sold recently. Hopefully it will be restored to its former glory, as it is a fine example of its kind. The Catholic Church looked well and the adjacent Community Childcare Centre looked very well.

The painting of the Town Hall and Play School are good and worthwhile projects. We look forward to seeing your work in the vicinity of the Town Hall in years to come and are pleased to hear of your long-term lease.

Landscaping:

There are some fine landscaped areas by the Church and Courthouse with attractive monuments. There were some attractive planted areas in front of the Catholic Church which were well presented. A nice seating area and planted area on the Rhode Road in the vicinity of the Grand Canal was admired.

The landscaping of the canal bank, church grounds and estates are all worthwhile projects. We look forward to seeing your new park benches in years to come. You mention maintenance of existing areas but no planned future projects. Have you any plans for future landscape developments? The town really is very lucky in terms of its magnificent location, offering immense potential

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Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The maintenance of the old Church of Ireland grounds as a wildlife area sounds like a worthwhile project. Have you considered conducting a wildlife survey? You could involve local schoolchildren and experts and then put together a wildlife management plan.

Litter Control:

There was quite a bit of dumping evident at the Bring Bank but, besides this, litter control was quite good on the day with only a bottle and can being evident on the Rhode Road. The litter competition sounds like an interesting idea. What projects have you conducted in the local school?

Waste Minimisation:

You mention that you are encouraging the involvement of the local schools and businesses in this regard. Have you considered organising any workshops or lectures in regard to waste minimization and composting? What other projects have you considered in this category?

Tidiness:

A grubby wall at the graveyard and weeds to the kerb created a bad impression, also the white plastered wall at the GAA pitch was quite grubby. Christmas lights were still evident to one building. The damaged pump on the Edenderry Road and adjacent derelict buildings created a bad impression. There is a derelict property with porch on this road, which was greatly admired and would benefit from being restored. Do watch out for rusty poles - there were quite a few evident throughout the town. Discourage advertising hoardings as they can give roadsides a very cluttered appearance. There were a couple of damaged pumps by the church in bad condition which should be repaired. Weeds were evident at kerbs by the Catholic Church. We look forward to seeing your new footpaths and lighting and wish you luck in these proposals to the county council. You also mention weed control as a future project-be sure to use environmentally friendly products in this regard.

Residential Areas:

An attractive garden on the Rhode Road was admired as were the trees planted at a housing estate in this location. A round tower was noted at a housing estate near the Garda Station and some marvellous houses facing onto the Grand Canal on the Edenderry Road were greatly admired, particularly one with lupins in the garden. A creeper-clad cottage with a half door on the road to the church was greatly admired. The planting of hedgerows and trees is a worthwhile project - hopefully these are indigenous varieties. The painting of houses and boundary walls is very important will make all the difference to these areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Along the Rhode Road an attractive high stone wall was noted but unfortunately verges were in bad condition. The relatively mature trees were coming along well - the grass had been cut here but dead grass had not been removed. It was generally well maintained and has an attractive route parallel to the Grand Canal. Perhaps the timber fencing in this location could be replaced in time by indigenous hedging or a stone wall, or even a series of spherical stone bollards. Presumably, prevention of access for vehicles is the concern here? Jaunty bog irises were evident in this location - it was a little overgrown in places, in particular where the

nameplate was obscured by overgrowth, but it was generally in good condition. Your work to approach roads and back roads are worthwhile projects.

General Impression:

Daingean is a town that has immense potential to do well in the competition. It is a most attractive location and has a wealth of fine architectural heritage which would benefit greatly being restored to their former glory.