

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dungarvan** Ref: **230**  
County: **Waterford** Mark: **281**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **04/07/2008**  
**15/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	26
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>281</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Dungarvan to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the Entry Form but it did not give much detail on work done for 2008 in respect of some adjudication categories. In fact the adjudicator was of the view that much more work may have been done for 2008 than was noted in your entry but could not be sure. It is most important next year to give detailed information on all new projects for 2009 or projects yet to be completed but which had started by summer 2009. Without that detail it is difficult to evaluate progress on TidyTowns in Dungarvan. With eight people on your Committee you seem to have had a very busy meeting schedule throughout the year and it was encouraging to read of the strong support that you receive from the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce. The meetings with the teachers from the Schools are most important as a way of developing further educational links with the Competition. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful. The adjudicator noted that a 3 Year TidyTowns Plan was not included with your entry. It is strongly recommended that you prepare a 3 Year TidyTowns Plan that will guide your work in the period 2009 to 2011.

### The Built Environment:

It was great to see that the Town Hall has now reopened and it is such an important community building. The adjudicator was very interested to read that planning is underway for a Marina at Dungarvan. This could be an excellent project in economic terms for the town and will encourage further sailing visitors to Dungarvan. At the Castle the new surfaced car park was admired as was the work presently under way on the Castle which did not seem to be mentioned in the entry documentation. Grattan Square has major potential for improvement and the adjudicator was very pleased to see that this has reached discussion stage. This area is extremely attractive and the four sides of three storey original buildings are almost intact. The two matching buildings on the Fr. Meagher Street side of the Square provide an entrance like 'gate' to the Square. Perhaps

a common colour scheme here might be considered. Extremely good landscaping is one of the key characteristics of Dungarvan and any work on the Square should allow for considerably more hard and soft landscaping. In the new plans pedestrians should win out over car parking and this may indeed have added economic benefit for the retailers in this part of the town. Therefore in the view of this adjudicator any new plans should ideally see a reduction in car parking and the widening of pavements to give more space to pedestrians. The SuperValu building on O'Connell Street is most interesting with the 'false' front elevation to the street that conceals the building behind. The old Community Welfare Office on Mary Street needed urgent repainting. At the beautiful Quay area looking out towards the Abbey the long white low wall needed to be painted as did the seating at the nearby Band Stand landscaped area. Many buildings in Dungarvan stand out for different reasons. The frontage of Robert Merry is excellently presented and the Market House / Arts Centre building stands out as you walk in the direction of Quay Street. The modern County Council building like other modern buildings in the town tends to fit well with the older built environment. The adjudicator likes your approach to street furniture as in several locations you have used a maritime theme for displayed items. The lettering and detailing of Flynn's Pharmacy is eye catching as is the Brass Band stone faced building. The excellent lettering at The Mill Restaurant complimented by window boxes and the stone façade of the building makes this a most attractive development but is compromised slightly by the blind. The Lawlor's property is another building that stands out due to the excellent colour choice and the interesting window detailing. Hopefully by this time next year work will have started on rebuilding on the old Ormond Hotel site.

### **Landscaping:**

The presentation of all the roundabouts on the bye-pass road was of an exceptional standard and all were most colourful. Especially between the Kilrush and The Springs roundabouts the roadside landscaping was really most impressive. No mention of the work on the bye-pass seems to have been highlighted in the entry documentation as a very high level of maintenance must be necessary on an ongoing basis. The very tall mature trees between The Springs and Youghal Road roundabouts are extremely impressive as you drive down this superb avenue of trees. The work at Walton Park is acknowledged and this adds to the attraction of Dungarvan. Near the Playground at Strandside excellent large well maintained grass areas were admired. Throughout the town the many window boxes, hanging baskets and tiered floral displays added a great sense of colour to Dungarvan.

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

The urban forest was the only project mentioned under this category in the entry form. As this project was mentioned in last year's report the adjudicator therefore understands that no new projects were undertaken this year under this category though the Linear Park was mentioned elsewhere. The opening of Walton Park is commended.

### **Litter Control:**

The weekly litter pick up is obviously working as litter control was good on adjudication day. The Schools Poster Campaign sounded interesting and it would have been good to have some further details. Congratulations to the Town Council on purchasing a Gum Buster machine. A little litter was evident on Mary Street and on Mitchell Street. Opposite the Brass Band building the Clothing Bank was spotlessly presented. Some litter was also evident in the Square but the situation here was not serious.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The collection by the Farmers Market of used batteries is an important contribution to waste minimisation. The entry form referred to a 'drop off facility' and the adjudicator was not clear as to what was involved in this. It is suggested that you undertake one or two new projects each year and continue those from previous years.

### **Tidiness:**

The campaign to remove footpath signage was welcomed but there were still quite a number of signs displayed on footpaths and these tended to reduce the visual quality of the streetscape considerably. The undergrounding of cabling in O'Connell Street has made a great difference here. Projecting signs on buildings are a problem in Dungarvan as in many other towns. Can the Town Council consider an incentive programme to have some of these removed. An important issue is how many of these projecting signs are really necessary from a promotional or marketing point of view. In a few of the narrow laneways weed and grass growth was noted. Along the quayside below the self-cleaning toilets the chain and bollards needed to be painted.

### **Residential Areas:**

Congratulations to SuperValu on their sponsoring of the Best Estate Competition as such competitions are really important in Tidy Towns terms. At An Cluain the cut grass had not been taken away and graffiti was noted on the ESB steel unit while the Conway Court development is a great Local Authority achievement. A most attractive area of terraced cottages was noted near Wolf Tone Road and many of these had been

recently painted. An overall colour scheme here supported by the Town Council might be considered. The Beeches was also visited and the landscaped areas here needed to be weeded.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The presentation of the main approach roads from Wexford and Youghal were of an extremely high standard. On the Youghal side especially the quality of landscaping and maintenance was extremely high but this was not mentioned in the entry form. The bye-pass road has been mentioned previously in this report but for this adjudicator it ranked among the best seen during adjudication anywhere this year. The presentation of the outer end of Mitchell Street before the Youghal roundabout did not meet the standard of other approach roads. Some roadside kerbing here to define the edge of the road might be considered. This would give a new landscaping opportunity.

### **General Impression:**

It was a great pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Dungarvan and we wish you well with your projects for next year. You continue to make significant progress in the Competition and do consider the preparation of a Tidy Towns Plan as suggested above.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It is about six years since this adjudicator last visited your town, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that this traditional old town is progressively modernising. I particularly admired the two major shopping areas. Garvey's Super Valu that has transformed that area while keeping in place the traditional building style. High street has an array of wonderful modern new shops opening on to the spacious pedestrian area that is finished to a very high standard. From High street there is a useful walkway that leads over to the busy O'Connell Street. These recent developments give a wider aspect to the town with easy access to most streets, where there are a number of car parks. Throughout the rest of the town there is a variety of traditional shop fronts that are maintained in very good condition and tastily decorated. I admired especially Brigid ni Dige shop front with neat hanging baskets of flowers and the two box shrubs trained in a spiral fashion. The area along by the waterfront is very well developed by the Moorings, and there is a great view of the nearby bridge, with unusual stonework, over the Colligan river. Waterford County Civic Offices is a fantastic modern building nicely set into that site with a neat forecourt and stylish landscaping.

There is a great footpath along by the waterside with the backdrop of the town, mainly the Church of Ireland and the small park, and very pleasant views across the bay, and it was interesting to read about the Brent geese, Oystercatchers, Cormorants, Curlews and other birds that are to be found in Dungarvan waters. I admired the street lighting along this area with the cables laid underground, and suitable seating was in place to relax and enjoy the fresh air and aesthetics of the surroundings. It was unfortunate that somebody had defaced the Remember '98 memorial with some type of paint.

Dungarvan Castle is a fine National Monument, and a reminder of bygone days, and it is pleasing to see that restoration work is being carried out there. I admired three churches – St Mary's (1828) RC church is a fine old church building –well maintained- with spectacular wrought iron gates and railings. St Mary's Church of Ireland is also a well maintained structure and has an interesting stone wall boundary. On this wall I noticed that there is some ivy starting to cover the wall and it needs attention, as the ivy will destabilise the wall. I noticed that the ivy was cut at the butt, but this will not kill ivy growing on a stone wall as it feeds off the lime in the stones and in the mortar. There was a chemical called arsenal available a few years ago that was very effective in the control of ivy, but I think it may now be withdrawn from the market. The third church that I visited was St Augustine's which looked crisp and fresh with the nice Shrine, well landscaped to the side, and here again there is an attractive wrought iron railing and gates. I admired the traditional flag stones on the street outside the church. Halla an Bhaille looked splendid.

The schools that I saw were all presented in excellent condition Colaiste Chathail Naofa, St Mary's Primary school, the spacious CBS and finally Ard Scoil na Ndeise was very attractively decorated, with matching colours on both sides of the road.

The level of landscaping around the town and outskirts is very good and indeed spectacular at the roundabouts especially at the Fairlane that sports the miniature gun carriages. Other notable displays of landscaping were noted at the Business Park, outside the Castle and in front of the Lookout area. I particularly admired the small recessed area on the Cappoquin road with a stone boundary wall, and here is the old signpost with the Roman Numerals Waterford XX1X – Cappoquin X – Dungarvan 1. The small Presentation graveyard is attractive and very well maintained, but some ivy is starting to appear on the fine stone wall. You are well entitled to the additional marks awarded by the first adjudicator. Congratulations to all concerned with the presentation of the town in such fine condition.