

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunlavin** Ref: **517**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **200**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	200

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your clear map and completed application form which were of great assistance to the adjudicator on her rounds. You have quite a large committee and have divided the duties well. You are commended for your inclusive approach to the community in general. It is refreshing to note that the competition has a positive impact on the community and that parents are becoming more aware in attempts to avert vandalism and graffiti. You should consider submitting a three year plan next years entry and perhaps a sub-committee could be set up to do this. Ongoing co-operation with Fás, the County Council and local schools is commended.

The Built Environment:

There are interesting features at Lugatrina including and attractive bridge which could be incorporated into your plans. The pump at the lime tree is an asset to Dunlavin but would benefit from a fresh coat of paint before next years competition. The Market House is a fine structure and could be made more welcoming by a fresh coat of paint on the door and window frames. The traditional shop front at Oliver Roches Pharmacy was admired. Kennedy's, Piece of Cake also looked well - but please ensure to paint the chimney stack too! The Roman Catholic Church was gleaming in the evening sunshine and the immaculate grounds and well painted railing too were commended. The Garda Station and Dunlavin Inn were presented to an exceptionally high standard. The AIB and Stonehouse and St. Kevin's College were neatly presented.

Landscaping:

The rose bed at the junction of the Blessington and Kilcullen roads was admired. Planters at the Market house were admired and nearby trees were maturing well. The Fair Green takes pride of place and it is clear that great care goes into its maintenance. The grass was well-trimmed and there wasn't a weed in sight! Seasonal planting at the 1798 memorial added a welcome splash of colour. Trees planted in the environs of Friar Hill

and Sparrow Road were admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Please ensure to indicate on the map where exactly St. Nicholas Holy Well is. It would also be helpful to details the steps you take in maintaining this amenity. There are wonderful opportunities to develop project into the future and many suggestions have been made by adjudicators over recent years. Perhaps forming a youth aspect to your committee would assist in taking on, for instance, a wildlife survey identifying the various habitats in Dunlavin.

Litter Control:

Unfortunately litter control was quite poor on the evening of adjudication and perhaps your committee should focus on this for the coming year. There was a considerable litter outbreak on Stephen St close to Centra. The opposite side of the Street displayed the most impressive row of new bins however it does not appear that they are being used! A shocking amount of cigarette butts (the worst this adjudicator has ever seen) dispersed on and around the footpath at the Dunlavin Inn is unacceptable. A small amount of dumping was noted at the Bring Bank also. You are commended on your appeals to get the Litter Warden to visit. Perhaps if a few fines were issued, the offenders might then manage to find their way to the numerous bins!

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations on your policy of segregating and recycling litter. please submit one of the leaflets with next years entry that is distributed giving details of recycling facilities. The bring bank is no doubt a busy facility, indeed it was in use on the day of adjudication! Last years report mentioned that one of the schools had achieved Green Flag status does this still stand?

Tidiness:

The protective grills on the trees looked well on Stephen St. Street signage should be cleaned regularly. You are commended for your ongoing efforts with regard to graffiti and the removal of weeds. A vacant site on Kilcullen St. had been screened off and this is commendable. As you identified derelict and vacancy sites detract from the overall appearance of any village and Dunlavin is no different. However, there is little that your committee can do directly and this has been taken into consideration.

Residential Areas:

Hanging baskets and a well maintained garden were admired at the Hollies. The cottage with bright yellow door and matching window boxes was greatly admired and across the road a vernacular townhouse looked well with co-ordinated window boxes and hanging baskets. The occupied residences on Main St. are well painted and fresh in appearance. The three storey residences on Stephen St were glorious. Great care and attention to detail is evident here and even a cheery gnome was spotted! New residences at Milltown are looking well and will, no doubt, on completion be finished at the same high standard as the more mature residences. Church Hill, Friar Hill and Church Terrace also looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Kilcullen road was particularly admired for its neat presentation and the softening effect of the maturing trees. The pathway and wall was neatly maintained approaching the lime tree. New paths were noted for their fresh appearance throughout Dunlavin but road surfaces were a little uneven in places.

General Impression:

There are many opportunities in Dunlavin to gain marks in this competition and your residential areas are inspirational. Clearly litter is the critical issue presently and this should be address ahead of any other new projects. Wishing you every success in the years to come!