

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunbeacon** Ref: **671**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **215**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	215

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Dunbeacon Action Group for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. Your hand drawn sketch of the area which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the Tidy Towns Competition is a great help to the adjudicator. There is great credit due to your action group for getting involved in this competition. Your involvement gives the area a profile it would not achieve if you ignored the possibilities of taking part. This involvement may also assist you in your dealings with Cork County Council personnel.

The Built Environment:

Dunbeacon is a rural area with no village to provide a built environment. Yet the Church is the centrepiece and its appearance worthy of that position. While there is a sign for a school the school no longer exists. It is a shame to see an august seat of learning fall into disrepair after the service it provided to many generations of local children. Likewise the castle which is even more inaccessible from the road. You have retained two important elements of your heritage, the creamery collection point and the village pump and well done for retaining these remnants of your past. This adjudicator would like to see the pump highlighted by cutting back the grass on the walls in the immediate vicinity. The walls and pump are nicely painted, but the image is tarnished somewhat by the weeds growing through the concrete.

Landscaping:

Much of the landscaping of Dunbeacon has been provided by the natural supply of nature. Your work enhances these surroundings. The raised bed at the junction illustrates that somebody cares. The colour at the Church car park brings life to a darkish corner. There are many different wild plants growing at the

creamery stop. They would display themselves to a greater degree if the area around each were better defined by removing weeds and superfluous growth. Many of the owners of the houses brighten up the road with their landscaping contributions.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is a section in which your group could make great advances. There must be a wealth of wildlife between sea, land and sky in your area. You may need outside assistance. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition. You say that you leave the wildlife in its natural environment. That is commendable but with so many species now under threat you may be able to improve the biodiversity of the area.

Litter Control:

Dunbeacon is largely litter free. The threat posed by passing motorists must be of nightmarish proportions. The road journey on a litter pick is hazardous so well done on your standard.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the segregation of waste on the beach. The campsite is an example of a responsible attitude to waste with their various bins for waste segregation. This is an agricultural area. In what ways can waste minimisation schemes be introduced in this context?

Tidiness:

The roadside is allowed grow wild, and this is in keeping with the natural surroundings. Your clean signage, on a busy road, is an example to many of the high fliers in this competition. Even some of the signs have an arty, funky appearance.

Residential Areas:

There are fine dwellings throughout the Dunbeacon area, some farmhouses and others dormitory residences. All enhance their surroundings.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roadsides are left to their own devices, as should be the case in a rural area. Last year's adjudicator mentioned the lack of a signpost. What a pity. Your community deserves the recognition that such a signpost would bring. Signposts would help define your community and maybe assist in creating pride in this beautiful area.

General Impression:

Dunbeacon came as a shock. One expects a village or town. Were it not for your map this adjudicator would never have found you. Hence the importance of signposts! Having found Dunbeacon one senses the pride of place in the historical artefacts you value and the pride in your area through its upkeep. Go maire sibh beo.