

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## **Adjudication Report**

Centre: **Dunmanway** Ref: **672**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **258**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **27/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>258</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to the Dunmanway Promotions Association for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission, the three year rolling plan and for your map. Your hand drawn sketch of the town numbering the places you regard as being most important for the Tidy Towns Competition is a great help to the adjudicator. It also helped the adjudicator to visit your website and get a flavour of Dunmanway before visiting. Clearly your group is very much involved with the community and gives a lead in community affairs. It is great to read that schools have gained Green Flag Status. From a Tidy Towns Competition viewpoint it is gratifying to read that involvement in this competition builds civic pride. That you may continue to be successful in your work.

### **The Built Environment:**

The main streets are brightened by the appearance of many of the businesses. Good examples are the AIB, Doheny's, The Southern Bar and Twomeys. JM Sheehy is a blast from the past and worth preserving. At this junction the number of vacant buildings is disturbing. Many are beginning to deteriorate. Other buildings need to be painted or given an uplift. Cables mar the skyline and advertising adds to the general uneasy feel. The town plaza across the bridge is a hive of activity and not a cable in sight. Lovely. The parking facilities make shopping accessible. The hard landscaping at the centre is both visually attractive and restful. The general building style creates the visual impression of the traditional market town. Shop fronts that catch the eye are Crowleys, an tSeamróg, John O'Donovan, Neaums and the Arch. An Leabharlann is a fine building that looks a bit tired. The Gaelige is conspicuous all over with 'búistéir, Tigh Tabhairne, an tSeamróg'. The information boards are a gem, well presented and full of information. The photos from the Lawrence Collection add to the interest. The town notice board is also a worthwhile idea. Much of Castle street is in need of renewal. The Model School from 1848 is part of the rich history of Dunmanway. Its distinctive design make it a valuable heritage building for the town. The chimney stacks are of particular

interest. The tennis courts, swimming pool and playground provide a leisure complex being adjacent to one another. The pool is beautifully secluded by the mature trees. This whole park area is a great amenity for the town but the seats needs some attention. These facilities must be of value to Coláiste Pobail Muire gan Smál, a fine modern building. The front of the 1882 Town Hall is well maintained but the back area here is unkempt. The beautiful grotto also needs some attention. The County Council offices are well kept. The Churches are impressive also. One finds examples of dereliction from time to time and this is a problem that needs attention. The shed near Lakeside Park is an example of how the old can be made appear impressive.

### **Landscaping:**

Well done on the colourful work completed at Lakeside Park. There are many fine examples of colourful landscaping throughout the town. The landscaping and shrubberies in the vicinity of the Model school are a joy. Another example of attractive landscaping is at the junction where the Bantry approach road arrives in town. The junction at JM Sheehy's is also lit up with summer colour. The yellow seats are in tune with their bright surroundings but are in need of a coat of paint. Landscaping is used in the newer estates to add colour to the modern surroundings.

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

The Riverside Walk makes access to a natural feature possible and is a worthy project. One feels that your group has not fully come to grips with the aims of this section. It is likely that there are people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and biodiversity who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition.

### **Litter Control:**

Well done on your participation in the Cork Litter Challenge and for getting involved in the National Spring Clean. The result is that there is very little litter along the streets. Some estates are littered nonetheless. The emphasis in the litter section is not just on collecting and organising clean-ups. These are important but creating awareness of litter reduction is equally important. As a next step in your fight against litter make litter reduction your key ambition.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Promoting the Green Flag Status among the schools is a worthwhile waste minimisation awareness project. The waste collection for outlying areas is also laudable. Collection of the household electrical appliances and the collection of hazardous waste are also worthwhile schemes. But remember where the main emphasis lies in this section. That emphasis is not on litter control and waste collection but on devising means of minimising waste in your community.

### **Tidiness:**

In general Dunmanway has a neat appearance but there are challenges. What a shame to find the abstract sculpture in the park defaced with graffiti. There may be an opportunity to bury the cables at some time in the future. If that opportunity presents itself grasp it, as has been achieved at the San Maguire plaza. Care should be taken of signposts throughout. Many need painting while others need to be washed.

### **Residential Areas:**

Housing in Dunmanway is a mix of older and new, bungalows and terraces mixed with modern estates. Quality and maintenance vary quite dramatically from one location to another. There is fine housing on the road from Bantry. Beyond the secondary school there is a fine estate. It is particularly interesting to notice the solar panels on these new houses. There is also an estate full of colour across from the Model School. St Vincent's Park was a disappointing experience with litter, weeds and grass not cut. It is a shame that so many terraces and estates do not have name stones on the building or at their entrance, Sam Maguire terrace being an exception. Another exception is the fine Mike Doheny terrace. In some estates the open space is not mown making it frustrating for the kids attempting to play ball.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads to Dunmanway are generally well maintained. The approach road from Bantry is most welcoming. The Pitch and Putt provides natural verdant landscaping which contrasts attractively with the surrounding housing. The by-pass is a most attractive route, clean and with fine walls. Some of the lesser streets are a cause of concern. When one arrives from Clonakilty, or Sam Maguire Park, one is treated to a joy at the Parkway building. The stone house is charming, the first gracious bridge of one's visit greets one, the lady about to jump intrigues one. The Glentree Furniture store blends tastefully with its brick and stone surroundings.

**General Impression:**

Dunmanway is shedding and growing. The former leads to the unpleasant. The latter bears hope. Your group is fully conversant with the challenges that the town faces. Continue to advance your plans despite the recession. Look after the smaller achievable tasks. The major problems will solve themselves in time.