

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dungarvan** Ref: **230**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **284**
Category: **E** Date(s): **11/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	26
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	284

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form, a work programme and a numbered map showing the locations of the various projects. This was of great assistance to the adjudicator and made the visit particularly enjoyable. Your all embracing PR efforts to drum up support amongst the wider community for Tidy Towns activities make impressive reading. Evidence of the co-operation between your group, the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Council is to be seen in many locations in the well presented town.

The Built Environment:

Over the past number of years, Dungarvan has successfully restored its historical contact with the sea. The Quay has a fine range of restored and regenerated buildings and these buildings have been hugely enhanced by well detailed, hard landscaped areas finished with high quality street and associated marine furnishings. Outside activities, relating to pubs and restaurants, along this promenade has added a very busy ambience and, together with the boats and sailing craft on the nearby water, provide a great elegance. At the corner by the Brass Band building, there is a nice arrangement of maritime artefacts at the commencement of the link walk, Cross Bridge Street, to the Town Square. The Lady Belle, Paddy Foley's Pub (the hand painted lettering in the latter is of a very high standard), and Maria Moloney's are strategically important corner buildings presented to a high standard. Opposite, the Mill Restaurant forms part of a successfully restored warehouse. A number of horizontal banners attached to the wall here have a somewhat unsightly appearance. The adjacent car park also has a number of signs attached to a telegraph pole which detracts from the visual appearance. Here, a finger post information sign has been re-orientated and now misinforms the visitor. Grattan Square surrounded by a number of very high standard shop front presentations was a hive of activity on the day of adjudication. The Farmers' Market was in full operation and its nice layout provided a busy and bustling scene reminiscent of days gone by. One is reminded of the old 'fair days' where most commercial

activity was carried out in the town centres. This busy area was extended along the link into the well located shopping centre and this space was similarly busy on the day of adjudication. The area was bedecked with Déise and U.S. flags in anticipation of the forthcoming Independence Day celebrations. This space is again landscaped with good quality surface finishes, attractive street furniture and colourful displays of hanging baskets and flower tubs.

Church St. indeed looks impressive and it is good to see so many buildings here retaining most of their architectural features particularly their sash windows. The presentation of The Tannery Cookery School was particularly admired. Your plans for the underground ducting of overhead cables here will make a meaningful contribution to the visual environment. Elsewhere, there are many fine streetscapes and terraces ranging from the elegant South Terrace (where many sash windows remain intact) to the charming smaller scale single storey houses at Shandon Street beyond. Public Buildings were presented to a particularly high standard and the cluster, involving the Post Office, Courthouse and Tourist Office on T.F.Meahgar St., are bright and colourful as indeed is the presentation of King John's Castle. The Waterford County Council Offices on Davitt Quay are spectacular and both hard and soft landscaping are of a standard for others to emulate.

Landscaping:

The Town Council's initiative in giving work experience to local students for gardening and landscaping is a forward looking venture, which will in time reap many benefits and is a rewarding follow on from the Green Schools initiative. The completion of Walton Park was certainly a great achievement. Landscaping here is carried out and maintained to a very high standard. The adjudicator observed that the area is highly utilised by locals and visitors alike. The water feature is a great attraction. The stepped access at the historical Devonshire Bridge and the colourful rose beds are a nice feature of the landscaping here. The formal pergola walk by the tennis club has been newly planted and on maturity should be a major enhancement. The adjudicator noted that the tennis club is being enlarged to create a two-storey building. We wish you well in this venture. The Bandstand Park at the Lookout looked very well and its ornate large scale shrubberies provide a nice introduction to the stepped level change. The hard landscaped area opposite, with the informative story boards, adds great interest here. The linear park at St. Brigid's Well, with its attractive themed playground, is a nicely developed amenity and had a high usage on the day of adjudication. Elsewhere, there are many incidental open spaces presented to a high standard located throughout the town. Evidence of the committee's hard work and their effective mobilisation of the wider community, is clearly to be seen in the huge number of hanging baskets, planted tubs, window boxes and flower beds throughout the town, which hugely enhances the overall environment.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your proposal to link the Lookout to Fr Twomey's Road as a connecting wildlife corridor should prove to be a very interesting project. In view of the fact that the town has many natural amenities and wildlife areas, it would be a well worthwhile exercise for the committee to encourage local clubs and associations or to liaise with the Green Schools programme to carry out further surveys of local wildlife. The results could then be illustrated on bilingual, wildlife boards providing further interesting information points along this walk.

Litter Control:

The efforts of the committee are obviously paying dividends as Dungarvan was almost litter free on the day of adjudication. A small amount of litter was noted at the Lookout and intermittent littering was observed near the takeaway and Bring Centre at Abbesside. There was also a small scattering of papers along the road at Mitchel Street and Rices Street. Your continued liaison with the local schools is very heartening, as this is probably the best way of raising awareness in the community of the ubiquitous problem of litter.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to see that you are making progress under this heading and the planned visits of the litter warden to the schools should have a good effect. The Bring Bank at Friary Street car park is centrally located and this facility was clean and well presented.

Tidiness:

The adjudicator notes that the introduction of CCTV has already had a good effect and no doubt this will also assist in the reduction of general littering. It was noted that the former Bank House and adjacent buildings on Davitt's Quay at the Devonshire Bridge are for sale. It is to be hoped that these visually high profile buildings will be redeveloped in the short term. Similarly, at O'Connell St., the vacant site of the former Ormond Hotel remains undeveloped and looks somewhat unsightly. It is to be hoped that redevelopment of this site will also be carried out in the short term. Further along, the adjudicator understands that the old cinema site will be redeveloped for community housing. This will be a welcome initiative.

Residential Areas:

The town now has a large range of housing estates, many of them constructed in recent years. A number of

these, ranging from Town Court at Collins Road to Doire Beg, incorporating Mountain View B & B, to Landsend in Abbeyside, have attractive landscaping, are well presented and are maturing nicely. White's Orchard is a very well designed scheme containing a lovely scale and use of materials. The retention of a number of apple trees and the subsequent interpretation of this theme with the fallen apple sculpture created a lovely 'sense of place'. Well done on this project!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Last year's adjudicator stressed the high standard of presentation of approach roads from both Waterford and Youghal and these are wonderfully linked with a series of very attractively landscaped roundabouts, a number of them having an appropriate, colourful maritime theme and these set a high standard for many other similar areas located throughout the country. The Quay has become a busy area and is much used by pedestrians. Perhaps the committee would give some consideration to developing a fully pedestrianised zone here, at least for some limited hours in the evening. This would have the effect of removing heavy volumes of traffic from the water front at evening time and make this space more enjoyable for the pedestrian.

General Impression:

Dungarvan is a town with a rich maritime heritage. In recent years, the Tidy Towns committee and the Town Council have been involved in many new developments with a view to visually enhancing this great tradition. The committee is to be congratulated on its visionary approach to environmental matters and we wish you continued success in the years ahead.