

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Dunhill** Ref: **242**  
County: **Waterford** Mark: **242**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>242</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form and an informative map which was of great assistance to the adjudicator. We note that the Dunhill Tidy Towns group is part of the DFBA group and the success of this initiative is an example for other groups of rural villages to emulate. This venture certainly provides an integrated approach to your development aspirations. We wish you well with this programme. A further advancement of this initiative would be the creation of a three to five year development plan which would provide a strong focus to your future efforts.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Dunhill Ecopark developed by the Dunhill Rural Enterprise Park provides a busy atmosphere to the village. This is a truly impressive development and it was good to see that the facility is being fully utilised. At this location, there was an impressive mix of development involving business, sporting and community. On the day of adjudication, the area was bustling with activity as the scout sports day was underway. Pairc Ui Bhrian is well presented with an attractive name sign. The surrounding area has an attractive array of both built and loose stone walls, particularly at the entrance to the Ecopark. At the cross roads, Harney's Pub and Shop looked very well and its presentation was inviting. The premises was nicely presented with its attractive external paved area with tables and seating adorned by an array of colourful hanging baskets and planted flower tubs. The attractive stepped hedge at the Church boundary was admired.

### **Landscaping:**

The standard of landscaping is one of the high points of the village and a good mix of trees, shrubs and annuals has been achieved. Your recent efforts had been noted by last year's adjudicator and it is to be hoped that this tradition will continue. The green space opposite the gable of Harney's Pub was certainly the highlight

and this area with its attractive stone wall and the splash of blue colour provides a colourful ambience at an important focal point. The beds opposite the school were in need of some weed control.

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

As a rural village, Dunhill is rich in wildlife habitats and we note your future plans to develop access to the Anne Valley. Perhaps a good way of raising awareness of environmental issues amongst the local community would be for the committee to further liaise with the National School to encourage local wildlife surveys. The results of such surveys could then be illustrated on bilingual, wildlife boards providing a further interesting information point in the village.

#### **Litter Control:**

The village was generally litter free on the day of adjudication and your campaign involving the school children is obviously paying dividends. There was a small quantity of litter scattered on the ground by the information board.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your bottle bank is a successful initiative and is well located and presented. The ground area here was in need of some attention. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from the Race Against Waste website will be adopted in the future.

#### **Tidiness:**

Last year's adjudicator noted a number of problem areas under this heading and some of these have yet to be addressed. The overall appearance of the village was one of tidiness and, in particular, the area surrounding the crossroads looked very well. The grotto was a lovely feature and its design set into the retaining wall looked particularly charming. The underground ducting of the overhead cables has been visually, a tremendous asset to your village and this is now an outstanding feature.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The addition of new housing in the village certainly provides a busy atmosphere. Cois Coille is a pleasant scheme on the Stradbally Road entrance. The built stone wall is a nice feature here, as is the loose stone wall opposite. There is a great tradition of stone wall building throughout the area and this is a feature that should be encouraged, especially where new developments occur. The green open space was nicely maintained and the grassed area was freshly mown. The green beech hedge inside the boundary wall had a softening effect. There is an array of well maintained, colourfully presented, private residences throughout the village. The thatched cottages also give great charm to the village core. Both of these had been newly thatched and, opposite Harney's Pub, the ornamental ridge is partly finished and looks magnificent. The colour scheme here is particularly appropriate.

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

We note your appeal to Waterford County Council for a new footpath to be developed from Cois Coille to the village centre. It is to be hoped that you will be successful in this request and that some traffic calming measures will also be introduced. The announcement sign here is poorly presented and on the day of adjudication was almost obscured by overgrown weeds. Perhaps the development of the new footpath will offer the opportunity of creating a more welcoming announcement sign.

#### **General Impression:**

Dunhill gives the impression of a tranquil village retaining most of its traditional character and charm. Any visitor spending time here cannot but be very impressed with the amount of commercial, sporting and community activity in the area. This must surely augur well for the future.