

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dundrum** Ref: **1117**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **280**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	50	32	32
Landscaping	50	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Litter Control	50	34	35
Tidiness	30	19	18
Waste Minimisation	20	7	7
Residential Areas	40	38	39
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	41	42
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>280</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of three to seven members are to be complimented on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. It is good that you receive support in your community and from public agencies in your area. Many thanks for supplying us with maps highlighting works done in your community. However, as mentioned last year it would be appreciated if the information was all on one map rather than the three you supplied. This is important especially as the adjudicator may not be familiar with your community and moving from one map to another can be confusing. Remember when you have prepared a three year plan; highlight the works carried out in the previous year for each criteria.

### The Built Environment:

The old Church of Ireland school is a major project and we wish you luck with this venture. When completed, it would be good to improve its visibility from the road by reducing some planting in front of the building. The fine stone building of St. Mary's Church is very impressive and appears well maintained. It is a shame to see the Rectory building in such a derelict condition and it is hoped that it can be saved for the future. The old Royal Irish Constabulary barracks and now the Garda station is a fine stone building and it will be important to ensure its conservation in years to come. Weeds on the chimney need attention. The Golden Vale building in a very prominent location is in need of much attention regarding maintenance. No doubt this depends on finding a future use for the building that is financially sustainable. The furniture centre at the rear is in worse condition and the car park is quite littered. The GAA complex is quite impressive and somewhat out of view from the village; its entrance is well presented. This junction is significant because of the radiating vistas and the manner in which they are represented. In fact it is an ideal location for a roundabout to link all of the vistas and at the same time help to slow down traffic in the area. The Station House is an attractive building and it has hanging baskets and some shrubs in the garden. Some wall plants would help to reduce the impact of

the concrete block wall front boundary. Quirke's Service Station was clean and tidy and there is a fine specimen of a cedar tree in the garden of an adjacent house. The Centra shop and the adjoining area and the Scouts Community Hall looked well. Quirke's panel beating building looks derelict and the use of hanging baskets and flower boxes do not help to reduce the impact. The building is badly in need of attention. O'Dwyer's Steel building is well painted and the entrance to the complex is tidy. The buildings in the historic village centre are well maintained and make good impact especially the large gable of Bertie's Bar and the road surface looks very well. On Green Road, the Veterinary Clinic is in need of improvement.

### **Landscaping:**

The established line of lime trees on the main road in the village is most impressive and is a rare scene in Irish towns and villages. They highlight the value of using one species of tree in this situation. At this stage some low branches could be pruned to facilitate better use of the footpath. It is suggested that you explore the establishment of a line of similar species on the opposite side of this road and complete the avenue effect similar to but not as dense as that on the Cashel Road. It is understood that you will be anxious not to block the view of the shops etc., and therefore a wider spacing should be used. It is suggested that tree planting be undertaken inside the grounds of the GAA complex. The concrete wall presents a stark appearance on the inside; the use of wall plants such as Cotoneaster or ivy would greatly soften the impact. Floral displays are less important in your environment where you have such fine trees. However, if provided it is important to keep them maintained. In that regard there is an unmaintained display in the car park in front of the Golden Vale. If not maintained, it should be removed. The planted areas at the village cross (Deerpark Road) were well maintained.

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

The commissioning of the Wildlife report is noted. Your community is surrounded by wildlife and it will be important to determine its extent and diversity. No doubt most of your community is knowledgeable on your environment but the report will help to increase awareness and guide you towards particular interventions to highlight and conserve nature.

### **Litter Control:**

In general litter management in the village is working well as only small amounts were noted on the street and the litter bins were well maintained. Some litter and debris were noted inside the boundary of the GAA complex. However, the greatest problems occur in the untidy yards behind the lime trees and in other areas where there are derelict buildings.

### **Tidiness:**

Dundrum has improved greatly over recent years and is becoming much tidier. However there are some sites which are a major problem. The yard opposite the RIC/Garda Station is quite derelict and untidy. Although somewhat hidden by the lime trees on the main road in the village, the large untidy yards behind the fence have an unsightly impact on the village in terms of the competition. We noted the clean-up at the Railway embankments on the Deerpark Road, well done. The entrances to the Dwyer and Tudor Tiles yards have weeds present and the gates need painting. Part of cars stored behind a wall beside Quirke's panel beating enterprise should be removed. Some dumping was noted on Green Road.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

We note your participation in the "Energy Neighbourhoods" competition and congratulations on coming 1st in Ireland and 4th in Europe. That is a great achievement. We look forward to receiving details in future years of the volume of materials being recycled in your community. The Bring Centre was well maintained.

### **Residential Areas:**

In general the Dundrum community take good care of the areas where they live. The houses and gardens estates on the side of the Station Road are generally well maintained with some exceptions. The open spaces at the rear of the estates were recently improved. We wondered why the palisade fence was erected at the small pitch site. The kerb on the other open space is more pleasing. Beechgrove estate has a poor standard of maintenance and appears unfinished. There is some tree planting on the open space and scope for more in the gardens. The houses in the village centre are well maintained.

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

We were pleased to see the clean village sign upon our approach on the Tipperary Road and particularly liked the quotation "Beauty dies where litter lies" The established woodlands provide a wonderful setting for the sign. We also liked the "Fáilte" signs; ensure that they are visible by removing vegetation such as low branches of trees (on the Cashel Road). The timber road signs elsewhere are of a fine standard and

appropriate for the area. The Scout/Community Hall is significant but the letters need to be highlighted with a different colour. The Station Road sign cannot be missed because of its impressive size and the creamery cans flanking it on each side. This symbolism gives an indication that Dundrum was once an important centre for a creamery, is that the case? Be careful in using such items unless they have a meaning for the area. The background of established trees is very important. The concrete wall of the GAA complex on Station Road is well treated with the use of artwork, planting and seats and they help to frame the view of the Station House at the end of the road. The road improvement and fencing works were noted. The access road to the Coillte Sawmills looks well. One of the piers needs repair and we suggest that a hedge be erected against the palisade fence at the entrance to screen the activities beyond. Fine stone walls flank both sides of Deerpark Road and the mature trees behind make an important approach to the village. The sign for the Raparee Drive is almost hidden with foliage. We noted the improvement works of the fence, trimmed grass and newly planted hedge on the junction of Green Road and Mill Road. Consider the backs of signs which are visible as one leaves the community; on the Cashel Road, it needs cleaning and the aim should be to screen it with the planting.

### **General Impression:**

You have made significant progress in improving your community and are fortunate to have some wonderful features such as important buildings and wonderful specimen trees. While you have some major issues yet to be solved, we are confident that with your motivation and determination, these can be dealt with in the years to come.