

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dundalk** Ref: **494**
County: **Louth** Mark: **303**
Category: **H** Date(s): **07/07/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	55
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37
TOTAL MARK	450	303

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Dundalk is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2014. Thank you for your detailed submission including suggested route, map, Dundalk Style Poster and supporting samples. You will note that the format of the judging has changed slightly this year with 8 categories rather than ten – there has also been an increase in points available. Please ensure that future 3-5 year plan adhere to this structure to optimise marks for future entries. It is also recommended that this plan be updated annually to optimise the initiatives coming on stream year on year. Congratulations on your contribution to this year's Giro d'Italia - no doubt it boosted Dundalk's international profile and local economy. Your 'Don't just cycle – re-cycle' theme for the St. Patrick's Day parade is a clever and effective way to get your message to local families. There is varied expertise on your committee and this is commended. Large urban centres like Dundalk have challenges of scale and the unified approach of the local authority, business community and the local community is commended. It is encouraging to note the involvement of Comhairle na nÓg. In addition to this, there are multiple large-scale businesses, educational bodies, local voluntary groups and agencies that play an important role in the overall presentation and planning of Dundalk. Well done on maintaining coverage in local media – given the large population of Dundalk this is necessary to keep a focus on the importance of having pride in your locality. The contribution of 18 schools in the Green Flag programme is lauded and is the contribution of Dundalk Institute of Technology. It is great to see that there are events and conferences throughout the year promoting Dundalk as a place to live and do business in including 24 Hour Art Gallery; Brocante and Dundalk International Food Festival.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The new Tesco development was nearing completion as the adjudicator passed. This will enhance this area significantly. Well done on the collaboration to relocate the original pillars from the railway footbridge and other projects undertaken by Dundalk Railway Heritage Society. Similarly good progress is being made on the Quay Street Project – keep up the good work! Attractive façades and seasonal planting were noted at The Lisdoon, Jockey's and The Kingfisher Restaurant. An attractive copper gateway to Partnership Court was admired. The presentation of the Peugeot Dealership, Recycling Centre and adjacent seating area looked fantastic. In the same area Keystone was noted for its pristine presentation. The inclusion of the Dundalk Style poster is a good idea and it gives the adjudicator an overall impression of architecture underlying the modern streetscape. As every the Market Square and its environs are most impressive - the Mural Wall and Tain Bull are welcome additions. Similarly the Louth County Museum has been restored sympathetically and is in fitting with the streetscape. CBS Dealgan looks well with attractive planting enhancing its appearance. Dundalk IT buildings and grounds also play an important part of the urban fabric of Dundalk. White Mill B&B looks great and is certainly setting the bar! You allude to the fact that vacant premises and dereliction are an issue as is the case in most urban centres well done on your work to date on this and keep going! Finally the partnership with The Probation Service is paying dividends and we look

forward to the Ice House Hill Park project in the coming years.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

It is great to see that your activities in this area focus on a year round programme rather than focussing on the Summer season with planting including Tulips, Heather, Skimmia and Violas. An abundance of hanging baskets was exuberant throughout the central business district of Dundalk with colour scheme to compliment the Giro Tour 2014. The floral displays at the entrance to the Clanbrassil Centre and at the end of Clanbrassil Street have spectacular impact. In this area too, approaching the church a marvellous display of yellow and orange marigolds was noted. In general public hard and soft landscaping are of an exceptionally high standard and clearly no expense has been spared. Of particular note is the area adjacent to the Garda Station. The grounds of the Holy Family Church are fantastic and close by well-maintained lawns at Grange Drive and Glenmore Park was noted.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

You are commended for your collaboration with the Heritage Officer on biodiversity training. Please be clear in future submission when the training/events take place - perhaps details an event listing to include dates? The provision of 35 pairs of binoculars, sponsored by Dundalk Tidy Towns is a good way to encourage students to embrace the biodiversity of Dundalk and its environs. Perhaps now is the time to invest in a formal biodiversity survey? This would bring you to the next level and provide a platform for the development of projects in this realm.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Well done on the number of initiative to date in this section of the competition. The Uisce Bagga project was mentioned by last year's adjudicator - thank you for detailing the results of the pilot programme. It would be interesting to see the statistics of its growth/compliance over a period of time to determine success rates. Clearly the Green Flag Programme is an integral part of the Dundalk education system – keep up the good work. Other projects include the Eighth Hour, Water Bottles and Recycling of Household Waste Food. For future planning it would be great to see a series of information evening perhaps in associate with businesses or households on way to reduce reuse and recycle. Your Environmental Officer should be able to assist here.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The central business district overall looks great with street furniture well maintained. You are commended on the various programmes to address the presentation of railing and, bollards and seating in all public areas. The area around the new Tesco development is progressing well and we look forward to its completion lifting this area. Unfortunately there were significant litter outbreaks noted in the following areas on the day of adjudication, Wrightons Lane, Stapleton Court, Aghameen Park, the environs of O'Fiach College and the approach to Glenmuir FC. These areas should be targeted for improvement in the coming year is possible. Well done on your ongoing dog-fouling initiative it is great to see a reduction of over 40% of incidents across the four zones being monitored.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The handsome red-bricked row at Ardee Terrace was noted. Doylesfort Grove too looked well as did the red-bricked development at Lady's Well. The properties at Stapleton place are impressive and charming cottages were admired at Bachelors Walk. Broughton Street is a delight and Wolf Tone Terrace and The Long Avenue Terraces looked well. Many of the properties in Belfry Grove and Aghameen Park look good. Well done on work to date on estate name signs it would be great to see this programme continue as there are many residential areas that are presently unidentifiable to the adjudicator. Congratulations to the residents of Cedarwood Park and Alphonsus Villas on their success as The Best Local Authority Garden and Best Garden.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The regular cutting schedule being implemented by Dundalk Town Council is improving the appearance of approach roads and the ring road. Thank you for taking note of the adjudicators comments from the 2012 report on the removal of excess 'Welcome to Dundalk' Signs – sometimes less is more! The 11km of cycle lanes in a fantastic facility no doubt utilised heavily by the student population as well as locals. Bridge enhancements along the Tain Bridge and Newry Road Bridge were noted. The road surface on the Doylesfort approach is rough in places and would benefit from resurfacing. Defenders Row, Distillery Lane and Hoeyes Lane were neatly presented.