

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DUNKERRIN**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>206</b>

## Dunkerrin, County Offaly

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Dunkerrin is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. You have a very pleasant village, featuring plenty of seating and landscaping, with a lot of potential to attract the travelling public from the Nenagh – Roscrea road. Thank you for your completed application form and map but unfortunately you did not identify the area of the ‘Ink Bottle Lodge’, for which you have applied for a Heritage Grant, and we are therefore unable to comment upon this. Perhaps you could give us more details on this with next year’s submission.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

St. Patrick’s Funeral Home and grounds look quite well, though there are some weeds at the kerb. The planting along the side is nice but the boundary wall here could be freshened up. The church looks drab and needs to be repainted although the grounds are nicely kept. The Community Centre is well painted. The side area is a little untidy, weedy and features an old broken gate and the old wire fencing should be replaced. The village featured bunting on adjudication day and one broken strand from the Community Centre and post and should have been replaced or removed. The Byrne Newsagent looks well but over-abundance of ‘Lotto’ stickers in the window and ‘HB’ and ‘Lotto’ signs on the frontage, detract from its presentation. As mentioned in last year’s report, the empty and vandalised telephone kiosk must be removed, replaced or repaired. The O’Dúláinne (Delaneys) property in an attractive building but the paint-work should be touched up before it becomes a serious problem and the old faded ‘Hennessy’ sign should be removed. The Tom Fogarty / Dunkerrin Arms premises is well painted with excellent stone work and lighting together with picnic tables at the clean, tidy and well cared for rear of the property. The side entrance to this property is untidy, however, as it appears to be used as a storage area for crates of empty bottles. The carpark for this property on the Roscrea is well cared for with attractive landscaping but the ‘Dunkerrin Arms’ sign is broken a little and this area could do with just a little more attention due to its very prominent location.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The picnic area is nice with good planting. The young trees planted along the well kept roadside, screening the wire fencing to a field behind, from the Roscrea Road is a welcome feature to this entrance to the village. The planting opposite the funeral home looks well but the seating here needs to be repaired. The green area just before the petrol station also features impressive planting but the old Esso sign is rusted and should be either refurbished or removed altogether. The Church of Ireland is an excellently presented property with wonderful landscaping, including magnificent Silver Birch trees, outside and planters in the wall alcoves are a nice touch.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The two overgrown green areas near the telephone kiosk are disappointing. The existing planting here is admirable but is lost amongst the overgrowth. These green areas are in a prominent location in the village and provide an excellent opportunity for amenity. Has a wildlife survey been undertaken in the village? This is strongly recommended, perhaps the school children could be involved in a wildlife project?

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was unfortunately a small amount of litter, mainly plastic soft drink bottles, at the picnic area, despite the presence of a litter bin. This bin is not in a particularly prominent place. Perhaps it could be replaced, or at least its rusted lid, at some time in the future or another bin added at the further end of the picnic area. Some small amounts of litter were caught in the dead sprayed weeds and tree fallings along the entrance from the Roscrea road.

## **TIDINESS**

Weeds along the footpath along the stone wall outside of the picnic area and sprayed weeds further along this road detract from the attractive stone walls. One of the most problematic areas of the village in terms of tidiness is the site adjacent to the impressively landscaped triangular area on the Templemore entrance. This site, which features a generator of some sort, is terribly disappointing with its inadequate wirescape fencing, dumping, weeds and odious smell. This whole area needs to be adequately screened if it is not to be developed in the immediate future. The sports grounds and playing area of the school is well maintained, although the boundary wall could be painted and the area in front is quite untidy with sprayed weeds and do with a good sweeping. There is also a fair amount of weeds along the footpaths and kerbs in the school.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The window and door apertures of the stone house opposite the Byrne Newsagents are nicely painted. Some residential boundary walls close to the school could be painted. Green areas in the residential estate at the entrance from Shinrone is extremely overgrown, which is a pity as it makes a very poor impression into the village. Most of the boundary walls need attention and there are small mounds of rubble together with weedy footpaths. The majority of houses and gardens here are reasonably presented but the green areas let the entire area down.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

There is a nice stone wall opposite the Community Centre with well kept grass verges and planting. The entrance to the village from the Roscrea Road is well cared for and

attractive but the nameplate could be cleaned. The seating beside the old telephone kiosk is admired. The entrance from the Templemore Road looks really well, with its terrific mature landscaping. The 'Welcome to Dunkerrin' stone is a lovely touch together with the seating, neat grass margins and planted water pump. The village unfortunately features quite heavy wirescape. Have you looked into the possibility of having this ducted at some time in the future? The Roscrea sign in the centre of the village, which has been mentioned in at least the previous two year's reports, has yet to be cleaned, painted or replaced. The entrance from Shinrone and Barna is quite overgrown and in stark contrast to the Roscrea and Templemore approaches. There are also no nameplates to the village from the Shinrone or Barna Roads.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Dunkerrin is a charming village but there appears not to be a focused approach to its development. The preparation of a three to five year development plan would help consolidate your efforts and hopefully ensure that the excellent standard which prevails in some parts of Dunkerrin are carried throughout.