

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunlavin** Ref: **517**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **221**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	50	30	30
Landscaping	50	32	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17	17
Litter Control	50	25	26
Tidiness	30	18	18
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	27	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	218	221

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome, Dunlavin Tidy Towns, to the 2012 SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Dunlavin is a village of character, is spacious and yet has well defined boundaries. It is a pleasure to adjudicate it.

For a village with a relatively small population you have a committee of 13, indicating good community support. In addition to your 3 main clean ups you have weekend litter pickers.

You use the usual agencies to support your activities. In the Built Environment Category I will be suggesting another body that may help enhance Dunlavin.

In the media that you use for communication you mention church and school newsletters. In future entries please enclose copies of any newsletters that feature tidy towns activities. They may be taken into account when marks are being calculated and will be returned to you after the competition.

The Built Environment:

The iconic building in Dunlavin is the Market House. It is full of character as it stands in the middle of Market Square. It is well presented, particularly with the wool streamers which adorn it. Its clock, unusually, works. It chimed the hour while I was looking at it.

St. Nicholas of Myra Church: Looks well. Railings clean, nicely painted. Grounds well kept – grassed area and shrubs.

Parish Centre: the adjoining Parish Centre also well presented.

Jonathan Swift National School: 3 Green Flags. Nice stone wall. Extensive grounds. Very well maintained – lots of trees and shrubs.

Peoples Park – Market Square: The park looked well with its rose beds. The old grave stones lining the walls are an interesting feature. The wool rope on the railings is eye-catching, just as it is on the Market House close by.

Fire Station: Clean and tidy.

St. Nicholas Church of Ireland: Very well presented. Lovely old stone wall surrounds it. Church and graveyard – neat and tidy.

Maal hall with its “Historic Dunlavin” mounted map answered some questions. Both were clean.

Cemetery: neat and tidy. The old stone wall is impressive with tall gate pillars and very nice gates.

Last years adjudicator was critical of the state of the entrance to the GAA ground. Perhaps you could persuade the local GAA to be more responsible and enhance their entrance.

Landscaping:

There are many landscaping features around Dunlavin together with hanging baskets and other flower containers. All adding splashes of summer colour.

The first example of landscaping that greeted your adjudicator was at the Tobar Road/Station Road junction.

An attractive old stone wall has a clean village tap in an alcove in it. On a grassed margin in front of it there is a clean seat and further on is the Dunlavin road side sign. Passing the impressive Market House one sees lots of flower pots in front of its entrance. They stand on a nice cobbled area. The small park to the left has beds of roses. On Sparrow Road there is an unnamed crescent shaped row of houses facing a small green which is nicely landscaped with trees and flowers. Other landscaping beside the road. Fair Green has landscaping on a corner opposite the church. There is more landscaping on the green along Church Terrace which also has a good stone wall to its front.

This is not an exhaustive list of the landscaping in Dunlavin. Your adjudicator mentions the locations to convey that landscaping is spread throughout the the village in a balanced way. In addition the new planting at the fire station is noted and the refurbished seats were used.

The lime tree on Kilcullen Street is majestic. An unused flower bed near it was noticed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have not scored well in this category and you can. Dunlavin has lots of wildlife habitats. Why not start with a wildlife survey. Elsewhere in the country (and even in Dublin City) Tidy Towns Committees and pupils in schools with Green Flags team up to do a wildlife survey. This can provide the basis for informing decisions about wildlife projects.

Your entry says that you planted wild flowers. Why not look for a suitable piece of land and turn it into a wildlife conservation area, again with help from the schools. It has been done successfully elsewhere.

Wicklow County Council may have a Wildlife Officer. It is worth enquiring.

Litter Control:

Dunlavin was litter free on adjudication day. Your daily litter patrols are clearly working. Resulting from its fine big greens Dunlavin has a very open feel to it. Sightlines are good so it is easy to spot litter, or the absence of it. The success of your Spring Clean and Volunteering Day are also major contributing factors, as is the help from the scouts, schools and residents associations. Well done to all involved.

Tidiness:

The new road signs are excellent. The blue and gold are a great improvement on the former black and white signs. Your weed control programme is effective. There is a brown finger sign – Tounant Graveyard and St. Nicholas Well. The pole it is on needs to be painted. The removal of most of the old bins is noted.

Your adjudicator saw the notice from Wicklow County Council saying that your Bring Bank had been taken away. That is not good news. Its removal has not had an immediate adverse impact on Dunlavin judging by what your adjudicator saw on adjudication day. Even so, you should take steps, in partnership with Wicklow County Council to have it restored.

Waste Minimisation:

With their Green Flags both schools will be implementing waste minimisation programmes using composters, recycling paper, batteries, etc.

Dunlavin Tidy Towns continues to promote waste minimisation techniques. In your entry for next year please give more details.

Residential Areas:

On Sparrow Road there is an unnamed semi-circular group of houses. They face a grassed area which is landscaped with flowers and trees. The houses are well presented, neat, tidy, no litter.

On the opposite side of the road is Friar Hill estate. There is a central grassed area with lots of trees. The houses are red brick with garden walls, some with well planted front gardens. Neat, tidy, no litter.

The terraced residences overlooking the green at Chapel View are mature and look well. There is an eye-catching feature at a corner of the green – a stone base supporting a newly painted village pump in black and gold flanked by 2 large ornamental flower pots which look like urns and are also freshly painted in black and gold.

The residences on Main Street, Market Square and Kilcullen Street look well and add character to the approach to Dunlavin from Blessington. Residences near Cow Green also looked well.

Your adjudicator noticed an application for planning permission for 71 houses on a gate pier at Cow Green and wondered what sort of impact a housing development of that size would have made on Dunlavin had the project gone ahead.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach to Dunlavin at the junction of Tober Road/Station Road has been described elsewhere in this report. It gives a very good first impression because it has an attractive landscaped area with old stone wall, village pump and sight of the Market House.

The approaches on Sparrow Road and Pound Road also create a good first impression of Dunlavin. On the road from Crosskeys the approach is also good. Attractive old stone walls enhance a lot of the roads into Dunlavin and add to the feeling that Dunlavin belongs to another time. A time when stone walls, trees, spacious greens, impressive buildings such as the Market House and the churches were the norm. Not the potential of 71 houses off Cow Green.

The only bridge your adjudicator saw was an old railway bridge, which looked to be newly painted in green, Milltown road. It was over a long disused railway line, now overgrown but still discernible. It came as a surprise to the adjudicator who did not know that Dunlavin had once been on a railway line.

General Impression:

In your entry form you describe Dunlavin as “a well laid out town. The open greens and mature trees are a great asset”. The adjudicator wholeheartedly agrees.

Thank you Dunlavin Tidy Towns for your entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. We look forward to receiving your entry to the 2013 Tidy Towns Competition