

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunlavin** Ref: **517**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **235**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	28
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
TOTAL MARK	450	235

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you for the excellent entry form, map and the supplementary material in support of the application. Dunlavin is welcomed to the 2014 Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition and indeed its neighbor on 15 years since this adjudicator visited the town and no doubt much has changed during that period. You have a very active committee of 9 and the involvement of other associations in the Town in helping you with your work shows a commitment to helping the town progress in the competition in the years ahead. Being involved with organisations such as TUS, Dunlavin Forum and Wicklow Uplands Council helps with your ability to be able to influence decision makers in Wicklow County Council and other agencies when things are needed to be done for the town.

You have embraced all methods of communication new and old to get the message across to the local community and others. Coincidentally the adjudicator checked in to your web presence and found that the home page was in Latin no less or maybe I was dreaming! Since you entered in 2006 you have as you say made steady progress but the Town has far more potential to do even better in the years ahead. Well done on your good work to date.

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

Dunlavin, a place steeped in the history of the 98 rebellion, has many fine features in terms of architecture most notably the Market House now a Library which is the focal point as one approaches from the Naas/Hollywood Road Junction.

The building is in very good condition although there seem to be some remedial work being undertaken on the area around it.

The road surface of this road up from the aforementioned Junction is poor in parts and one wonders if the committee has it on its list of "to dos" for Wicklow County Council

Both St Nicholas Churches RC and Church of Ireland with their respective grounds are very well maintained and the personnel responsible for their upkeep are to be commended

Scoil Níoclais Naomha with its striking black and white name sign was also presented in a very acceptable manner and credit to the caretaker and other staff who look after its well being.

It is hoped that the new Playground Project, which will be adjacent to the school and opposite the Green, will be a major asset to the town when completed.

The following premises appealed to this adjudicator for a variety of reasons Imaal Hall an excellent development for the Community, Morrins Supermarket next door, Garretts Bar with simple signage, Doyles Family Butchers which

has a disabled access facility.

The Flags on Jonathan Swift National School have been replaced by new ones

The adjudicator was impressed by the number of private residences some of whom had very mature and attractive gardens.

The Fire Station was mentioned in last year's report as being in need of a coat of paint, this still has to happen.

Dunlavin GAA has a well appointed facility and well maintained ground

Overall a good standard of presentation and maintenance of buildings in what is very fine expansive town.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The standard was very good and to the forefront was Dunlavin Green with its well maintained green and substantial border bed populated with old reliables such as euonymous, spirea, potentillia and the like.

St Nicholas Church of Ireland has well manicured grounds with some nice shrub beds interspersed in a few prominent locations.

The Committee are to be congratulated for taking upon themselves to ensure that all the main points in the town where planting arrangements are placed are regularly weeded, clipped and re landed if necessary.

Trees are also part of any urban landscape and Dunlavin has its complement although the placing of these trees looks a little imbalanced.

You are wished well with your application to the Tree Council in quest to get grant assistance for additional planting.

In relation to not getting assistance from Wicklow County Council to maintain the grass cutting well you have access to local councillors who should be lobbied to get this to change.

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

Some centres struggle with this category as they feel that may not possess basic natural habitats from which projects could be developed but that are not the case with Donavan

The committee has been responsible for a large body of work that is being done in this category and you have responded in a positive a manner by installing bat boxes, bird boxes and insect boxes

One did not have the time to examine in detail all the work that was being undertaken under wild life and natural amenities but it was noticeable in your submission that you have been very much involved with the local schools.

Last year's report mentioned that it was important to do further research in wildlife habitats in your area to identify and record the various species in the form off an appropriate survey.

The adjudicator suggests that you seek advice from the County Wildlife Officer/Ranger who can direct you in this undertaking and of course it's important to continue to keep the schools involved.

Hopefully the Nature Trail will be completed in advance of next year's competition.

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

This category has been re defined to put greater emphasis on the need for more waste prevention as distinct to waste management alone.

There is a concerted effort by the Department and Local Authorities to put the concept into practice over time.

The booklet which accompanied the original entry form is meant to be both informational and directional and it contains links to relevant organisations such as www.greenhome.ie and www.localprevention.ie as well as www.begreenee.ie for "green "business and hospitality sectors.

You are not the only committee to find this category difficult I would reckon over 90% of entrants do and you should get in contact with the County Council Environmental Officer for further advice on how to progress any ideas you may have.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The Committee has certainly not been inactive when it comes to good litter control measures and also has where resources have allowed been proactive in addressing areas of untidiness.

One understands that lack of funds and as a consequence resources can be frustrating for a voluntary body that is working to its limits to help its town progress.

The adjudicator thought the standard in this category was more than acceptable and indeed there a lot of things outside the control that any committee can do in this context.

The adjudicator traversed the town to the limits on what was a rather "showery" day to say the least and there was very little litter to be seen except for a few pieces on Upper Stephen Street.

Kerbsides were relatively weed free and there was an absence of clutter in the place.

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

I must commend the residents of Church Terrace this old established development on the manner in which they have presented their respective homesteads.

The newer Church Hill was also was in good condition one or two side fences just need ac oat of timber preservative.

Sparrow Road has a large green area which needs to be maintained regularly and it was cut on adjudication day.

Friar Hill is a rather large development with some very well presented dwellings and gardens, trees planted some years back are maturing nicely.

Overall the standard was good.

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

Approach roads were in good condition except for the surface at the Hollywood/Naas Junction.

Naas Road has a nice and inviting tree lined entrance with the edges trimmed in accordance with recommendations for the preservation of wildlife species.

The road that leads to Rathsallagh House, whilst narrow, was also in condition with the surface for a subsidiary road surprisingly good.

As was the case with other roads the edges were treated in accordance with good wildlife preservation practice and hedgerows were in bloom.