

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunmore** Ref: **195**
County: **Galway** Mark: **287**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/07/2017**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2016 | Mark Awarded 2017 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 39 | 40 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 33 | 34 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 33 | 33 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 35 | 35 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 16 | 19 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 61 | 62 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 32 | 32 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 32 | 32 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 281 | 287 |

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project. Thank you for your very neat and concise entry which included an excellent map with key and colour coded walks - all very useful. You have a strong volunteer base and definitely work well with other organisations. It is also clear that you are well-organised. Good luck with the allocation of the hard-won funding. As you communicate so well with other, it is hoped that you will get all the assistance you need. It's good that your links with the schools are so strong. With 5 schools that's a lot of young people who could lend a hand. It was heartening to read how positive and cohesive Tidy Towns has been for Dunmore. Ní neart...

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

Good luck with the work at the Friary. These were ongoing at time of adjudication. You are also wished well with the lighting project. You have a number of other ongoing projects including at the old graveyard and on derelict buildings. The Friary is gorgeous. The Heras fencing looks like it has been here a while, but these conservation works are often lengthy. Did you get any advice on lighting the building and possible impacts on wildlife? It is unlikely that there are bats in this building but have these - and birds - been considered in lighting plans? The Bank of Ireland is housed in a lovely old building but watch out for rusting ironwork here. The movable Eurospar signs are completely unsuitable for this area. They are far too big and look utterly incongruous with their surroundings. The permanent signage in the car-park is in poor condition and could be much better. The shop itself was very clean. The fencing at the Eir compound is in need of repair.

There are several lovely business premises. The butcher, Breathnach's Pub and the Pharmacy are all very different in style but all looked so well. A betting shop disappointed. A takeaway sign needs to be cleaner. A garage on the R362 was very bright and had lots of flowers cheering up the forecourt.

There are several closed public houses, unfortunately. However, it is suggested that these could be made to look much better. The spacious windows could be used as display space. For example, to host an exhibition of old photographs - of the barracks, perhaps or what about drawings of the friary? The removal of some of the debris from the windows would be a good start. Hannon's shop/garage was busy but neat and well-decorated with flowers.

The community centre was being painted on day of visit and the nice planting was noted here. The library was open and in use and indeed the adjudicator availed of the facility to do some research. Here the helpful librarian was able to provide answers to all questions related to why exactly an Ecuadorian bomber had crash-landed at Dunmore and what happened next.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Here, your work has included a Men's Shed bowling green project (an unusual one!), a community garden and ongoing maintenance. Recent hornbeam planting was noted and the sites very suitable. You are advised not to plant at the base of trees, however. This is unnecessary and will do the trees no favours. Opposite the community centre there is a very pleasant little area with a recessed bench and wall-top planting. Field maple is an unusual but very pleasing choice of tree here.

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

The Organic Community Garden Project sounds great. The Bog Walks are important events for promoting biodiversity, as well as getting people out there to enjoy the outdoors. The Men's Shed have built bird boxes and bat-boxes and it is hoped that someone can instruct the buyers on how these are to be maintained.

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

You have submitted a really good entry in this category this year. The mobile water harvester will be an excellent saver of time as well as water. You have carried out festival greening and you have started a scheme to cut back on graveyard waste and compost the organics - excellent!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have a regular Sunday morning litter-pick - well done. You also come out on Bank Holidays. Fair play. You are using your good communications with the local authority to tackle fly-tipping and that's great. A separate committee looks after the playground. A little bit of litter had accumulated on the southern side of the Friary (at the car-park). Only a little bit of litter was seen on the day. Well done.

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

New flower beds were installed in Barrack Square and these were admired by the adjudicator. You are keeping the grass short at your only 'ghost' estate on Tuam Road. Barrack Square is a gorgeous estate and it is beautifully kept. There are nice shrubs at the centre and a beautiful wall. However, there is no need to plant at the base of trees.

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

You carry out grass-cutting on all of the approach roads. The Dún Mór sign has been repaired after a mishap, well done. Good luck with the ongoing stone wall construction project. It was noted that both road signs on the R328 (west) were in need of cleaning. Watch out for commercial signage. Signs should never be attached to telegraph poles. One of the 50kph signs is askew on the Tuam Road.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for all the hard work. You are making steady progress and more points will surely accrue. Best of luck!