

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunleer**

Ref: **495**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **281**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **25/06/2015**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24	24
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>281</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Dunleer is very welcome to the 2015 Tidy Towns Competition.

Thank you for the completed entry form which incorporated pictorial records of work ongoing and completed under the relevant categories of the competition.

Like many of your neighbouring towns and villages Dunleer web presence is accommodated under the Louth Tidy Towns Together website.

It's a change, from other similar entries, to see such a diverse mix of supporters of your activities represented on your list from the local authority to travel companies, grain merchants, horticulturist and the 5 housing estate committee.

One of Dunleer's longest in operation and largest industrial companies in the country is also listed.

It is always a good sign of any committee if the local business people row in behind its efforts.

So well done to all these businesses, the local credit union and other organisations sporting and civil that have backed you.

Credit is due to you as a committee for being able to mobilise all of the above when required.

By the way the main committee is small enough for a town of your size but the volunteer support is the key the Towns ongoing improvement in the competition year on year.

Louth Tidy Towns Together allows you a platform for interchange of ideas and as this adjudicator has experienced it also has created a competitive edge among the top performers! Good or bad thing in a competition such as Tidy Towns?

Your communication methods combine the old with new and maybe it's time to expand the social media options a little as these are the tools of communication of the younger generation.

Top marks to Scoil Naisiunta Bhríde on the Ardee Road for their green flag achievements and also for obtaining the Junior Enterprise Award flag.

Well done also to the committee members that helped with the sensory gardens.

37 years in the competition is a remarkable duration and you have bulleted pointed very succinctly the positives that have ensued over the years.

Nice achievement in conjunction with the local development board in raising €500k for the restoration of the impressive Market House which now can host community events such as the specific Music Night advertised on the day of the adjudication.

De Kube nights becoming popular with GAA Clubs probably more from Midlands upwards.

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

Some of the entries in this section would probably better placed in the landscaping section.

The upgrading of square at Beechwood Drive was visited and the upgraded footpath noted.

The Market House restoration is a very fine piece of work and now the town has what is effectively an art and performance centre.

Music event advertised for the 24th July had an eclectic mix of artists!

Good to note that the very fine and historic bulking that was the Railway Station building has now been restored and being used for community activities.

The Marian Year Grotto could be revitalised somewhat with a painting as it looked as if the existing colours were slightly faded.

The Grove was in good condition augmented by nice trailing lower arrangements on top windows.

Artisan Knead Bakery has a very eye catching shop front and sign, Enzos (thought the only one existed in Clare's capital) was very well presented and clean inside and out, Dunleer Credit Union deserves mention for presentation also.

Two very attractive town houses existed side by side on street heading out the Ardee Road; these were Sinsir agus An Teach Ban. Maybe these two premises are owned by the same persons or siblings.

Franklyn Cafe has very nice frontage and is very homely inside for a cuppa.

The RC Church and grounds were very acceptable and Scoil Naisiunta Bhríde has already been mentioned except to add that the boundary wall and wall caps are in need of painting.

Scoil Uí Mhuiri on the Barn Road is fine post primary school serving the surrounding towns and villages and judging by its website has a very active presence in the town's daily life.

The Corner House is a nice wee pub in the traditional style.

TC Matthews is an old traditional Dunleer business that has a fairly recent facelift.

On the negative side Dunleer has its derelict/untidy premises as other towns do.

The Committee should monitor the situation on a regular basis and build a dereliction tackle strategy into the future 3 year plan.

Also more than a few properties have garish or plastic type signs that are not gelling in with fine built infrastructure of the town.

Finally the Industrial Estates were very well maintained and grass areas looked after.

Now for a little gripe the public toilets were closed for whatever reason, but it's not good enough for a busy little town like Dunleer.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

A few of the entries under the Built section will be considered under this category.

Some fine long term work done in this category and there is great credit due to the committee for being prudent by putting in place planting arrangements that can be managed relatively easy

The ongoing maintenance undertaken each year is the key component of a good landscaping strategy.

It's no point having exotic features in place if they run the risk of being let get out of control over time because of lack of maintenance resources.

The adjudicator took note of all the simple but effective additions that have been made over the last year.

The following are some of his observations

The very attractive planter boxes with St Brigids Crosses on approach roads were admired as were the equally impressive Welcome to Dunleer Stone Nameplates and bedding begonia beds.

A very healthy and well populated shrub bed up from the Marian Grotto adds to that area.

The feature at the triangle green at the junction up to the well appointed Lane Lire Pavilion gave an added boost to that particular area.

Overall the standard was very good.

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

The area set out for wildlife habitat at Barn Road was visited in the course of the walk out to the secondary school by the Railway Line.

Just a thought crossed my mind that it would a prudent move to have pupils from both schools involved in any future wildlife projects as in my travels around the town and outskirts I did not see any information boards or other identifiers of the wildlife of the area.

One appreciates that the sure will probably recommend something along those lines but getting the school pupils in on the act at some stage would be both educational and practical.

The adjudicator has taken into account all the good work that you are doing but feels that there are other areas of potential in this category that can be exploited.

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

Some excellent work has been done in this category since last year.

The example of Glen Dimplex in providing a no cost running heating system for the Market House shows how a major industry can contribute to the needs of the community in such a practical way.

It is also a feather in the cap of the local Glen Dimplex plant that it was developed at the Dunleer facility instead of some of its overseas plant.

Using aero board as drainage in planter boxes is another good example of reuse.

Prior to next year the committee should consider consulting [www.localprevention.ie](http://www.localprevention.ie) to get ideas on how to prevent waste as distinct on tonally concentration on waste management.

Maybe get some ideas from a number of the industries that are part of the town.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Dunleer is a bigger town that one would think so there are a lot of areas to patrol also it is extremely busy and quite

commercially active.

The job of the committee to ensure a good standard of litter control and general tidiness is quite a demanding one but you have done well overall.

The measures that you have been involved in under graffiti control, dog fouling, litter picks and what the council provides by way of mechanical cleaning of streets are standard for any town.

Providing information and getting the younger generation involved is the key to a continuation of good practice in the years ahead.

Nothing will ever be perfect in this category and one will always find people who will not conform and there were a good number of pockets of litter observed during the walkabout including three crisp backs just left on a window sill with a bin literally a couple of yards away !

The adjudicator also felt that a few premises had unnecessary items placed in front of shop fronts.

Car parking can be a bit haphazard and well some of the issues like this could be dealt with in the future under a possible new town plan and when will see one of those in the country any time soon given the budgetary constraints of local authorities ?

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

The standard in this category was good and deserving of an extra mark for the effort of all of the housing developments visited.

There were also some very well maintained private residences in the core of the town and a few of these were commented on under the built environment and street section.

The following housing areas impressed the adjudicator The Orchard a compact development near grotto, Church View very well maintained older estate with nice greenery and name stone a few boundary walls and one or two houses need attention, Shamrock Grove and Beechwood Drive both of which are newer developments.

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

The approach roads into Dunleer were extremely well maintained and presented and the signage was clear and visible.

Some of the road marking such as yield and yellow lines were fading somewhat and need attention.

The roundabouts that were very well maintained and of course some of the welcome lower planters and impressive name stones add that little bit extra.

The Tree Tribes Garden done in conjunction with Scoil Bhride really enhances that little junction area on the road to Ardee.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was nice to revisit Dunleer and see the positive developments that have happened in the interim. When going North as the adjudicator often does one tends to forget these towns but now that I've re discovered the Monasterboice Inn an odd trip into Dunleer will be on the agenda!