

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dungarvan** Ref: **230**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **310**
Category: **E** Date(s): **13/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	43	43
TOTAL MARK	450	304	310

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for all of the work that you put in to your entry this year. We'll get the telling off out of the way now. Your entry was far, far too big. It weighed in at just under 2kg, you may be interested to know. While there was much interesting information, a lot of it relevant to your work, very little was required for this competition. For example, the screening assessment, the bird counts, the town centre information: could all have been summarised. Your plan was excellent, it has to be said. There was no need for some of the commercial information either. Unless there is a significant reduction in volume of material next year, points may well be lost in this category. Please be assured that we issue such warnings with no small measure of regret as we are aware of how much voluntary groups put into their entries and indeed the whole year's effort. So, many thanks for what you do for Dungarvan and we'll look forward to a slimmed down version next year. Your map was excellent and cleverly done (for such a wide area) and really made the adjudication easier. You should patent the little yellow stickers idea.

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

Grattan Square was in the thick of it with the works very much underway and not far from completion. The trees looked great. The LED lighting on the Greenway was seen (during the day) by bike. You are looking to have the name plaques reconditioned. Excellent, this is much needed. O'Connell Street is very pleasant - though traffic-filled for much of the day. The canvas sign at Bank of Ireland doesn't look good. However, very many shopfronts looked great here: Tom Curran's has a sparkling exterior and lovely signage. Next door the Enterprise Bar looks super and nude food seems promising. It was noted that 1st floor clutter was low (e.g. cables) on most of the buildings and a very high standard of presentation was enjoyed, even so far as the unoccupied No. 47 St Mary Street. Good use of Gaelige was noted at Hank's, the Launderette opposite and at the Museum. The SVP shop was in excellent colours. A couple of street name signs are missing but you are addressing this, it was read. Are recommended Scoil na nDeise has an excellent sign and is well-painted. The Museum walls are in need of cleaning. Surely a better street-level sign could be found than this? The Augustinian Church opposite has a great spire. A lovely building on the corner of Main Street and Carbery's Lane was being painted on day of visit. The enterprise centre looked well but get rid of pioneer trees here. Several businesses along Main Street, while closed, remained clean and intact. The old market house ends this street beautifully although its sidewalls will need to be painted soon. Merry's looks and smells fantastic. The Crew's rest and Tannery both look great and share a gorgeous old building but watch out for changing old signage. The Archer has pulled out all the stops to look bright and clean. However, the rear areas of Supervalu aren't up to scratch at all, being downright messy in places. Dunne's looks great and the Post Office was admired for use of wood. Meade's Café has a lovely window display. Garvey's premises at Coolagh were neat and tidy with colourful planting at the front. Well done.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The new tree-planting and urban orchard are excellent long-term investments in your landscape and biodiversity. Murals on the Greenway are an excellent addition but the adjudicator confesses that rhubarb is a brand new notion that would never have occurred! Grattan Square will be a fantastic space once the works are complete. The tree-planting and metal studs at street level are working out well. This adjudicator isn't so sure that the tiered planters at St Mary's are necessary but this is a personal opinion and the colours are good. The World War I monument was seen for the first time and the adjudicator was really impressed by this and the green space and landscaping adjacent. Lovely. Causeway Park is gorgeous with great planting schemes. The playground was in poor condition and very much in use on day of visit.

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

You have undertaken a few practical conservation measures this year and some of these are long-term initiatives, very good. No surfing seals were seen this time but there'll surely be other visits. You acknowledge the importance of the bay to Brent geese, an internationally important species. There is a great opportunity for tree-planting or plants for pollinators along the Greenway now.

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

Your entry here is concise and well-focused, containing a few very worthwhile initiatives. The Stop Food Waste project will never be irrelevant. You have 'greened' your Food Festival - did you do this officially? Ask your Environmental Awareness Officer for advice on this. The new facility for cyclists on the quayside is excellent. You deserve your extra points here. Bank of Ireland could save some money by turning off their outside lights during daylight. Sensors would be a good idea. Your Greenway was tried out (by bike). This is an excellent commuter route but was unfortunately quite littered on adjudication day.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The approach that you take to not highlighting graffiti is an interesting one. You appear to be well-organised when it comes to litter and anti-litter measures. You certainly seem to get wide support. A little bit of weed control is needed here and there. The large car-park (at the 'yard') has some attendant tidiness issues such as cable-ties and weeds. Litter is unfortunately a little bit of a problem for Dungarvan in places (e.g. Thompson's Lane and at the Tennis Court at the Park).

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

A very good entry here. You have provided good data - albeit a little too much in some instances. Go for it with the estates competition. An anti-litter league table, floral display, best kept name signs - all possible ideas. The Paddocks was extremely neat. A very pleasant 1-storey house on Shandon Street caught the eye. Tree-planting was noted at the Beeches. There is lovely treatment of doors and windows at a house at Emmet Street.

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

Again, a no-nonsense entry here with the key information supplied. The adjudicator was able to view all of these (bar the daffodils, of course), thanks to your excellent map. Are all of the roundabouts thus sponsored? These are an important part of the landscaping of Dungarvan and it would really be an achievement to have all of these sponsored.

The R672 is a pleasant approach with a bike lane and mixed pedestrian/bike space. There is a very nice old milestone with little bit of planting that looks great. The birch trees at the Kilrush roundabout may not be working out. The adjacent beech planting was noted.

Davitt's Quay is generally very attractive and encouraging to walk upon. The freshly painted bollards looked very good in the evening sunshine. The N25 approach from Waterford is a real pleasure. There is very bold and ambitious use of planting in solid irregular blocks of different species and the effect is tremendous. The Coolagh roundabout is art. It was great to see the bike lane extended so far out on the R675.

Concluding Remarks:

A really interesting and thought-provoking visit. Well done to all your volunteers and supporters. We will be hearing more about Dungarvan, it is believed.