

DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS

FIVE YEAR PLAN

2023 – 2028



AN OUTLINE OF OUR PROJECT CATEGORIES,
OUR SUSTAINABLE GOALS AND THE RELEVANT
TIMEFRAME TO DELIVER OUR VISION FOR
A SUCCESSFUL FIVE YEAR PLAN

5 YEAR
PLAN
2023 TO 2028



VIEW OF THE SQUARE DUNDALK, THE HEART OF THE TOWN

VIEW OF DUNDALK LOOKING DOWN JOCELYN STREET TOWARDS THE BAY



AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR PLAN



We will be using the following resources to help us carry out our work in Dundalk:

An Taisce
 All Ireland Pollinator plan
 Louth County Council
 The Tidy Towns Handbook
 National Biodiversity Action Plan
 Leave no Trace Ireland



THE PLAN

This plan is to serve as a guide for the work of Dundalk Tidy Towns over the next 5 years.

In order to create this plan, extensive input from Dundalk Tidy Towns was received. As well as this an examination of the performance of the Tidy Towns group was carried out.

This plan will be used as a schedule for long term projects to daily tasks being carried out within the Tidy Towns remit.

As this is a working plan it will be updated at the end of each year. Projects that have been completed will be deleted and any unfinished works will be added to the following year. New projects will be devised from the adjudicator's marks and suggestions. Additional works will be added using results from any studies or surveys we undertake or commission that year

DÚN DEALGAN DUNDALK

POPULATION
43,112
CENSUS REPORT 2022



SCALE / SIZE

24.71 km²

EDUCATION

14 primary schools
8 secondary schools
2 third level colleges

LOCATION

Dundalk, County Louth, enjoys a great location, strategically located approximately midway between the two largest cities in the Island of Ireland, Belfast and Dublin. It sits where the Castletown River flows into Dundalk Bay. The town is close to the border with Northern Ireland and equi-distant from Dublin and Belfast.

GROWTH

Dundalk is Ireland's second largest town after its neighbour Drogheda, and continues to grow and develop with an increasing population, new housing, industry and amenities, as well as increased visitor and tourism growth.



A VERY VISUAL PRESENCE

The Dundalk Tidy Towns logo was conceived and developed to assist in spreading the message about the great work, dedication and commitment invested by the Tidy Towns members every year. Our logo very much embraces all that we strive for as an organisation, and we are proud of its links with our past and its unique story. With its industrial heritage, its Victorian streets and buildings, Dundalk Tidy Towns has embraced the “*Coulter Poppy*” as their emblem, and we are working hard to bring it and ‘**SOCKS THE FOX**’ to a wider audience. **SOCKS** has been a real success story in such a short time, and he has brought *Tidy Towns awareness* to our local schools through events, information, newsletters and bio-diversity packs, as well as many other initiatives. We look forward to his next five years in supporting our schools and the younger members of our community. **‘THE COULTER POPPY’** is a beautiful, delicate flower that was in fact discovered and named after the local Dundalk man and botanist *Dr. Thomas Coulter* in 1832/33. This stunning and unusual flower also known as the

‘crepe paper poppy’ or the ‘fried egg poppy’ is our emblem for Dundalk Tidy Towns, and symbolises what can be achieved, developed and nurtured over time, and the beauty this can bring to everyone who encounters it. Like the ‘Coulter poppy’ that flowers every year with its happy sunshine yellow centre, the work of the Tidy Towns Committee also brings so much beauty, joy and pride to our many local residents.



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS MISSION STATEMENT

“

Dundalk Tidy Towns is committed to creating a cleaner and greener environment for the people of Dundalk. We will work together with all members of our community in order to make Dundalk a great place in which to love, work and enjoy.

”

DUNDALK – A BRIEF HISTORY

WORKING IN HARMONY WITH A UNIQUE HISTORICAL AND DIVERSE TOWNSCAPE

The town's name, which was historically written as Dundalga, has associations with the mythical warrior **Cú Chulainn**. The town's crest reads *Mé do rug Cú Chulainn Cróga*, meaning "I gave birth to brave Cú Chulainn". Dundalk is one of the most historical parts of Ireland with Louth known as the 'land of legends' and this region is at the core of the tourism development initiative known as 'Ireland's Ancient East'.

Dundalk or Dún Dealgan which means '**Dalga's stronghold**' is situated on the Castletown River which flows into Dundalk Bay. This area was inhabited in the stone age and the most dramatic evidence is the Proleek Dolmen at Ballymascanlan to the north of Dundalk town. Iron Age forts, medieval churches and numerous celtic and early christian structures, also exist in the locality, making this town a very important place in terms of its tourism and its local history.

In 1169 the Norman conquerers arrived in Ireland. Two noblemen, Bernard de Verdun and John de Courcy established strongholds, and Dundalk developed as an important strategic outpost to the north of the English controlled area known as the 'Pale'. The medieval town of Dundalk was walled and fortified but was later sacked by the forces of Edward Bruce, brother of the Scottish King Robert Bruce, in the early 14th century.

Dundalk survived many upheavals throughout the 16th century, including those during the periods of English reformation, Norman conquerors, the plantation of Ulster as well as the re-conquest of Ireland by Oliver Cromwell's and the defeat of the Catholic King James II at by the Battle of the Boyne by William III of Orange in 1691. In the 17th century, Lord Limerick and later Earl of Clanbrassil, James Hamilton, gave the town a new layout and demolished the old walls and castles. In time the town became an important port and was known for its linen, textiles and its brewing.

AN IMPORTANT LOCATION

Dundalk is a seaport, an urban district and the administrative centre for County Louth. It's location at the mouth of the Castletown River on Dundalk Bay just 45 miles (70 km) north of Dublin has been responsible for shaping the fabric and the history of the town. Over the course of the 19th Century, Dundalk enjoyed an economic boom as a direct result of the expansion of the railway service throughout the island of Ireland. With links opening south to Dublin, north to Belfast and as far west as Fermanagh the opportunity to develop markets abroad quickly became apparent. Links between Dundalk and Liverpool had existed since the 1820's. In 1837 the Dundalk Steam Packet Company took over from this frequent transport paddle-steamer service by carrying livestock, cargo and daily passengers between the two ports. With the development of the railway network from Dundalk through Enniskillen in the 1850's, farmers in counties like Monaghan and Fermanagh were able to supply livestock for shipment through Dundalk. These historical daily links to the UK via ports like Liverpool, brought a distinctive look and feel to the streets of Dundalk, where the Industrial revolution, new building ideas, red brick streets, facades and elegant stone craftsmanship became commonplace and is still in evidence today in the many repropoed factories, Industrial buildings and its red brick terraced streets.

From breweries, distilleries, tobacco, shoe and car manufacturing, printing, engineering and shipping, these industries have shaped the very fabric of the town and their historical buildings to this day leave a charm and quality throughout the various streets of this large town. Working alongside this diverse streetscape ensures that we have to afford much consideration and careful planning across all our many and varied tidy towns projects and initiatives.



VIEW OF GREEN CHURCH AND MARY STREET TOWARDS DUNDALK BAY
VIEW OF SEAN O'MAHONYS GFC, QUAY CELTIC FC AND THE NAVY BANK



A SENSE OF PLACE, *it's at the heart of who we are!*



**THINK
GREEN**

DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS FIVE YEAR PLAN

OUR KEY CATEGORIES

COMMUNITY – PLANNING AND INVOLVEMENT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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share with us!



COMMUNITY, PLANNING AND INVOLVEMENT



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER OF DUNDALK CHAMBER

ONGOING



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE LOUTH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

ONGOING



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER OF LOUTH TIDY TOWNS TOGETHER

ONGOING



PUBLIC RELATIONS / MEDIA GROUP TO BE SET UP WITHIN THE COMMITTEE

SHORT TERM



THE DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS GROUP IS TO PARTICIPATE IN A VOLUNTEER FAIR

ONGOING



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS TO TAKE PART IN THE ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE

ANNUALLY



SUPPORT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT FOCUS ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION SUCH AS FESTIVALS AND OTHER EVENTS

ONGOING

ONGOING



OUR GREEN SPACES AND LANDSCAPING



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL PRIORITISE PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS IN ALL OUR PLANTING AND LANDSCAPING PLANS

ONGOING



A NUMBER OF OUR PLANTERS IN THE TOWN CENTRE TO BE FILLED SOLELY WITH PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS. THE ETHOS OF SAME TO BE CLEARLY SIGNED FOR PASSERS BY

SHORT TO MEDIUM



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS TO ENGAGE WITH LOUTH CO/CO TO RETHINK THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL DUNDALK ROUNDABOUTS. THE GROUP WILL LOOK AT BEST PRACTICE IN A NUMBER OF AREAS OF DUNDALK AND FOR INSPIRATION ON HOW THEY CAN BECOME POLLINATOR FRIENDLY LANDMARKS

SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM



STRIVE TO OBTAIN GREEN FLAG STATUS FOR MUIRHEVNAMOR PARK, ST. LEONARDS GARDENS AND CLARKES GARDEN

LONGTERM



ADVOCATE FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE WAYS OF WEED MANAGEMENT

ONGOING



ENGAGE WITH LOCAL COMPANIES TO PLANT TREES ON THEIR GROUNDS AS PART OF NATIONAL TREE WEEK

ONGOING



OUR STREETSCAPES AND OUR PUBLIC SPACES



STONEWORK RESTORATION ON HILL STREET BRIDGE

SHORT TERM



SURVEY STREET FURNITURE ANNUALLY AND PAINT OR REPAIR WHERE NEEDED

ANNUALLY



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL LOBBY LOUTH CO/CO FOR MORE PLANTERS FOR POLLINATORS

SHORT TERM



CONDUCT SURVEY ON DERELICT BUILDINGS AND LAISE WITH LOUTH CO/CO

ANNUALLY



FLY POSTING AND GRAFFITI WILL BE MONITORED ON A REGULAR BASIS

ONGOING



STREET SIGNS AND INFORMATION BOARDS TO BE CLEANED ANNUALLY

ANNUALLY



CREATE A WALKING TOUR MAP FOR OUR HISTORICAL STREET SIGNS

MEDIUM TERM



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL LIAISE WITH LOUTH CO/CO FOR A THE CREATION OF NEW TOURISM MAP AND SIGNAGE BOARD AT THE SQUARE

SHORT TERM



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BIDS WITH FACADES PROJECT

ONGOING



PROMOTE THE SHOP FRONT GRANT SCHEME

ONGOING



From planting edible and floral flower beds across a number of housing estates to erecting swift boxes and distributing biodiversity packs to primary schools, we are dedicated to the importance of bio-diversity and our next five years will see many and varied similar initiatives rolled out across the community.

NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY (PART 01)



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL COMMISSION A BIODIVERSITY PLAN FOR THE TOWN AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS

MEDIUM TERM



THE DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS GROUP WILL PROMOTE 'NO MOW MAY' AS AN INITIATIVE AMONG HOUSEHOLDERS AND RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS

ANNUALLY



AT LEAST ONE BIODIVERSITY THEMED OUTING IS TO BE HELD THIS YEAR

SHORT TERM



A LIST OF PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS IS TO BE DRAWN UP. THIS WILL BE USED AS A CATALOGUE OF POLLINATOR - ENCOURAGING FRIENDLY PUBLIC PLANTING ON AN ONGOING BASIS

LONG TERM



THE DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS GROUP IS TO UNDERTAKE OR COMMISSION AT LEAST ONE BIODIVERSITY SURVEY THIS YEAR

SHORT TERM



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL LIAISE WITH LOUTH CO/CO TO IDENTIFY MORE AREAS WHERE A 'NO MOW' GRASS MANAGEMENT SCHEME CAN BE TRIALLED AND MAINTAINED. THIS MAY FORM A PART OF AN BIGGER URBAN RE-WILDING PROJECT

MEDIUM TERM

NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY (PART 02)



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS TO LAUNCH AND SUPPORT ONE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT THIS YEAR

SHORT TERM



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL SEEK TO HAVE A REDUCTION IN THE USE OF HERBICIDES AND EVEN HAVE THE USE OF THESE REMOVED ENTIRELY AROUND DUNDALK

ONGOING



WE WILL PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE ON HEDGEROW CUTTING ALONG OUR APPROACH ROADS AND OUR THOROUGHFARES AS WELL AS RESPECTING THE BIRD NESTING SEASON

ANNUALLY



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL COMMISSION A BAT SURVEY

LONG TERM



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL WORK WITH BIRD WATCH IRELAND AND THE LOUTH CO/CO BIODIVERSITY OFFICER TO INSTALL A NUMBER OF SWIFT BOXES IN THE TOWN. WE WILL ALSO PROMOTE INFORMATION EVENTS ON THE HABITAT OF THE SWIFT

SHORT TERM



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL STRIVE TO PLANT 500 TREES PER YEAR

ONGOING



HEDGEHOG, BUTTERFLY AND BUG HOTELS TO BE INSTALLED WHERE SUITABLE

LONG TERM



RAMPARTS RIVER - OBTAIN COMMITMENT FROM LOUTH CO/CO TO HAVE IT UPGRADED WITHIN THE CAPITAL WORKS THIS YEAR

SHORT TERM



RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION



CLEAN ENERGY



CLEAN
ENERGY



WATER
PURIFICATION



COMPOSTING

RAINWATER
HARVESTING



GREEN



EMISSIONS
REDUCTION



BIO



SUSTAINABILITY

‘DOING MORE WITH LESS’



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS TO HOLD AN ANNUAL CLOTHES SWAP SHOP

ANNUALLY



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE “SHOP LOCAL” IN ORDER TO HELP KEEP DUNDALK A VIBRANT TOWN

ONGOING



THE GROUP TO ORGANIZE A REUSE OR RECYCLE EVENT. EX: REPAIR WORKSHOP

ANNUALLY



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS TO LOOK INTO THE UPKEEP OF THE BOTTLE BANKS AND POSSIBLE REVAMP OF THE AREAS AROUND THEM

SHORT TERM



LIAISE WITH LOUTH CO/CO TO LOOK INTO INSTALLING MORE PUBLIC WATER FOUNTAINS

LONG TERM



INVESTIGATE THE CREATION OF A BESPOKE SCULPTURE MADE FROM RECYCLED PRODUCTS

LONG TERM



PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND PRACTICAL TIPS ACROSS OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE THEMES OF COMPOSTING, PREVENTING FOOD WASTE AND CONSERVING WATER

SHORT TERM



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS TO PROMOTE OUR REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE WHICH ARE GIVEN TO CHILDREN WHO ATTEND OUR LITTER PICKS

ONGOING

SUSTAINABILITY



TIDINESS AND LITTER CONTROL



DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS TO CARRY OUT A LEAST 3 LITTER PICKS WITH CLUBS THIS YEAR

SHORT TERM



WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH LOUTH CO/CO TO REPORT ANY ILLEGAL DUMPING AND SEEK TO HAVE CCTV INSTALLED IN THE AREAS OF CONCERN

ONGOING



CONTINUE TO WORK WITH CHARITIES THAT MANAGE CLOTHES BANKS TO MAKE SURE THAT THESE BANKS ARE BEING MONITORED AND EMPTIED ON A REGULAR BASIS

ONGOING



PROMOTE THE ANNUAL MATTRESS AMNESTY IN THE LOCAL RECYCLE CENTRE

ANNUALLY



LOOK TO CONTROL WEEDS ALONG OUR WALLS, FOOTPATHS AND OTHER PUBLIC AREAS

ONGOING



CONTINUE OUR 'BIN YOUR BUTT' CIGARETTE DISPOSAL CAMPAIGN

ONGOING



Meet 'Socks the Fox', Socks does some incredible work educating the schools about environmental, biodiversity and sustainability.

OUR RESIDENTIAL STREETS AND HOUSING AREAS



PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS TO TAKE PART IN 'LOUTH IN BLOOM'

ONGOING



DEVELOP STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESIDENT COMMITTEES AND ASSOCIATIONS TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND TIPS, AND TO OFFER HELP WHERE NEEDED

ONGOING



CREATE A COMMUNITY PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE TO FACILITATE PEOPLE SHARING TIPS AND IDEAS

SHORT TERM



ENCOURAGE ESTATES TO TAKE PART IN THE NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN AND TO PROMOTE REGULAR LITTER PICKS IN THEIR AREAS

ANNUALLY



THE NAVY BANK WALK



*Dundalk Bay is a place of natural beauty and a haven for wildlife and birds. It is a popular walking area for all ages, it is a **2 mile walk (4,500 steps)** starting from the back of Sean O'Mahonys Gaelic football club and finishing at Soldiers Point. It features a beautiful bronze sculpture of **Manannan** which means 'Celtic God of the Sea'.*

Dundalk Tidy Towns plan to enhance the area by the following works



COMMISSION A BIODIVERSITY STUDY



NATIVE TREES TO BE PLANTED ALONG THE WATER TREATMENT FENCE



NEW SIGNAGE TO BE ERECTED AND OLD DAMAGED SIGNS TO BE REMOVED



WILDLIFE HABITATS TO BE CREATED USING ADVICE FROM BIODIVERSITY STUDY



HEDGEROWS TO BE ADDED TO AND MAINTAINED.



WEEDS TO BE CONTROLLED ALONG THE FOOTPATH.



LOBBYING LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL AND DUBLIN PORT COMPANY TO REPAIR THE NAVY WALL.



REPAIR OR REPLACE BIRD FEEDERS

CREATE A SERIES OF RECORDED AUDIO FILES

1

TELLING THE HISTORY OF NAVY BANK

2

INFORMATION ON THE BIRDS AND WILDLIFE HABITATS

3

INFORMATION ON THE FLORA AND FAUNA ALONG THE NAVY

4

THESE FILES CAN BE FOUND ON QR CODES THAT WILL BE ON NEW SIGNAGE AT EACH END OF THE NAVY BANK



KEY PROJECT

For many visitors the '**NAVY BANK**' is very much an unknown part of the town, but one that holds significant importance both historically, as well as a location to be enjoyed for its scenery along its 2 mile long maintained path. Dating to the 1840's this is a man-made embankment dug by '**NAVIES**', deriving its name from '**NAVIGATORS**' who were responsible for its hand dug construction reclaimed directly from the estuary, a great feat of engineering.



With land gifted from **LORD RODEN** to the Harbour Commissioners for the benefit to the '**PEOPLE OF DUNDALK**', this wonderful scenic and recreational amenity is truly a hidden treasure and deserves to be showcased as part of the towns local attractions and amenities.

THE NAVY BANK WALK

OUR APPROACH ROADS, STREETS AND LANES



CONTINUE WITH POLLINATOR BEDS AT EACH APPROACH ROAD AND DEVELOP NEW SPONSORS BY LOCAL BUSINESSES

ANNUALLY



SIGNAGE ON APPROACH ROADS TO BE CLEAN AND IN GOOD ORDER AND NON LICENCED SIGNS TO BE REMOVED BY LOUTH CO/CO

ANNUALLY



‘NO MOW MAY’ AREAS TO BE IDENTIFIED ALONG THE INNER RELIEF ROAD

ONGOING



AIM TO HAVE ALL CYCLE LANES CLEARLY MARKED / REFRESH PAINT BY LOUTH CO/CO

LONG TERM



PROMOTE BIKE TO WORK SCHEMES AND CYCLE TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES

ONGOING



INVESTIGATE FUNDING FOR DRAIN SIEVES ‘PILOT PROJECT’ IN ORDER TO STOP LITTER ENTERING OUR WATERCOURSES AND HELPING WITH THE PREVENTION OF FLOODING ALONG OUR STREETS AND LANES

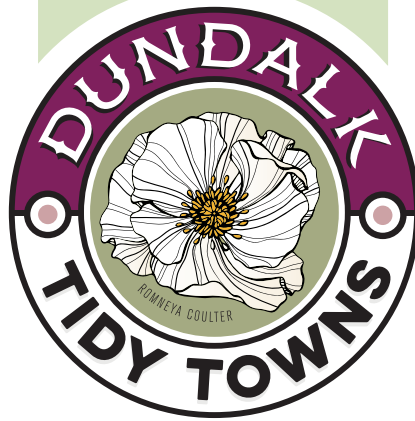
LONG TERM



OUR INCREDIBLE TEAM



5 YEAR PLAN 2023 TO 2028



THE DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS FIVE YEAR PLAN HAS BEEN WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY OUR COMMITTEE AND OUR TEAM OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, AND REFLECTS OUR FINDINGS AND OUR COMMUNITIES RESPONSES TO ON-GOING WORKS, INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE TOWN OF DUNDALK AND ITS PERIPHERY OVER THE LAST NUMBER OF YEARS. WE WORK CLOSELY WITH ALL OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS TO ESTABLISH A REALISTIC AND RESPONSIVE WORKING PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF DUNDALK.

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