

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dundalk - Dún Dealgan** Ref: **494**
County: **Louth** Mark: **357**
Category: **G** Date(s): **11/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	57	58
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	26	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	41
TOTAL MARK	550	353	357

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór! Welcome to the 2023 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition.

Thanks for inviting me to visit your town and see how the community is managing environmental assets. Congratulations in mobilising residents and agencies to support your work. Thanks for producing a map showing new projects but this adjudicator found it difficult to find all features. Suggest you obtain an Ordnance Survey map for next year.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

As Dundalk is a historic service centre it still has many lovely shop fronts such as McEvoy, Guineys, Trust House, livery stables, Phoenix Bar. The new memorial to WW1 near Ardee Terrace is very impressive. However the nearby interpretative sign of Victorian Dundalk needs cleaning.

The impression of Dundalk is weakened by the presence of derelict buildings. Could you try to mitigate for the visual impacts of derelict houses?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Landscaping in Dundalk is a tale of two opposites. The memorial to WW1 near Ardee Terrace is nicely landscaped. There is great work by the community at Pearse Park which is child friendly and there are edibles in new bed. However landscaping in the centre of Dundalk is of poor quality. The council should put in shrubs in beds in the centre of the town, maybe prickly ones to deter anti social activity.

Parklets were disappointing. This term is usually applied to small landscape areas on streets. Instead it referred to multi storey planters with species which were not pollinator friendly.

It is recommended that closer attention is given to species selection in planters to benefit pollinators. Please consult the All Ireland Pollinator Plan to get recommendations. Try perennials, lavender and heathers. Reduce cover of petunias and begonias. To improve landscaping standards in private gardens a garden competition should be run annually. To improve standards in parks, council should aim to enter their parks in the Green Parks competition run by An Taisce.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

The most important features of biodiversity interest in Dundalk are Dundalk Harbour and the river. Unfortunately

little focus was put on Nature and Biodiversity in your works programme this year. It is advised that a Biodiversity Action Plan is prepared for Dundalk. It is suggested that a No Mow May campaign should be initiated next year.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

Within Dundalk it was noticed that there is a good selection of second hand shops. However no recycling facilities were seen in the town. The council should be requested to set up at least two recycling depots in the town.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Inspection in the town showed that bins are in good condition. Litter was moderate. Congrats to all litter pickers.

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

Inspection of estates showed that residents maintain their gardens to a good standard. Unfortunately there is far too much closely mown grass in the public green spaces in these estates which is of low biodiversity value. Encouragement should be given to residents associations to plant shrubberies, native trees and even pocket forests. Where possible lengths of grass should be allowed grow long and All Ireland Pollinator signs erected in these locations to explain such actions to the public. If space allows pocket forests should be planted with native trees and shrubs such as a silver birch, hawthorn, spindle or bird cherry, all natives; attractive species good for biodiversity. To maximise the potential of these area to improve biodiversity underplant with perennials such as black-eyes susan, conflower, lavender, cat mint yarrow, persicaria and campanula, all easily available.

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

Dundalk has good signage on the approach roads but there appears to be little effort to improve the appearance of the areas with this signage, thus missing out on the opportunity to make a good impression on new arrivals.

Concluding Remarks:

Thanks for continuing to enter this competition hope that these suggestions are useful. You should join the Tidy Towns network in the county. Lobby your council to invest more resources in your town. Your efforts deserve this attention. Good luck in this competition.