

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DROICHEAD NUA**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>180</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed questionnaire, maps and additional information. The adjudicator looks forward to the submission of your detailed five year work programme, which obviously can be largely based on the environmental plan of the town. Try to work out practical steps that can be done on an annual basis, and in this regard, the adjudicators look forward to one or two significant projects over this period. Overall, the developmental approach is improving - it is nice to see pedestrianisation taking place off Eyre Street and improvements also taking place at the Market Square. This should be nice once completed and the adjudicators look forward to seeing the results of this work. Good luck for next year.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Droichead Nua is fortunate in having the River Liffey flowing right through the centre of it. It is a very nice natural amenity and one which can be used to help develop wildlife habitats. There is potential for greater nature conservation. A good starting point would be to identify wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what type of birds, animals and fish etc. these attract. You could invite local environmental experts and groups to advise you and provide you with specialist information you require. Why not consider putting information on the River Liffey/wildlife in the area near the riverside park at the bridge.

### LANDSCAPING

Some very good examples of landscaping were noted. The adjudicator would particularly like to commend the landscaping works that were noted both on the approach road from the Curragh and from Naas - excellent presentation, congratulations to the studs involved. At Riverside Park, a good effort was noted with the flowers and the area looked relatively well maintained from the road. However, small amounts of litter were evident by the patio area but it did not seem to be as bad as last year, also, try to consider improving the bins. The Riverside Walk is also a very nice amenity. It was relatively tidy at time of adjudication. An excellent presentation was noted at the entrance to Moorefield Park and the grassed area was well maintained. Try to encourage more tree planting and use of flowers throughout the town, for example, the car park area at the entrance to the GAA could have received better treatment this year.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some good presentations were noted throughout Droichead Nua this year, but there is also plenty of room for improvement. Outside the Pine Loft, it was a very bad presentation with fencing broken, weeds were particularly bad and the Pine Loft sign needing re-painting. Other premises that could benefit from painting include Laceys and Fitzpatricks. The Industrial Estate is really an unattractive area apart from two or three efforts, e.g. Newbridge Cutlery and the premises next to it which were well presented. Quinns' grounds were well presented, as was the other shopping centre. All the schools were generally very well maintained, which is encouraging to see, especially Newbridge College with its very attractive river bank area. The Churches were also very well maintained (a very attractive house was noted to the left hand side of one Church on the approach from Naas). The majority of service stations generally pay good attention to their forecourt areas and make good use of flowers. At the school opposite the Stand House Lawns try to replace the fencing. A very attractive lamp was noted at Youngs Chemist. Several premises were well presented on day of adjudication - Bord na Mona was very attractive with good use of flowers; Colm McEvoy; Newbridge Cycles; Curragh Video; Brophy Farrell and Chartbusters, together with Clarkes; First National and AIB - all were well presented, as was The Gables and Chat and Chew. The area outside Wire Ropes could be better presented. The grounds of the Keadeen Hotel were a magnificent presentation, congratulations here. The former Library building was very badly presented and really is a bit of a disgrace and takes from the overall appearance on the approach road passing over the bridge, and also coming from Newbridge College - try to improve this for next year.

## LITTER CONTROL

You are going to have to take a much stricter approach to litter control as it was a problem in Droichead Nua this year. Litter was noted in a number of places. It was quite bad by The Oaks and along the road by Stand House Lawns; outside the telephone kiosk opposite Highfield Park; outside Newbridge Vet Clinic; it was very disappointing opposite Moore Park on the main road. Litter was also noted on the Main Street near AIB and by the grassed area near the Garda Station and outside Dunnes Medicinal Hall. This level of litter is not acceptable but the adjudicators do realise that you do have a large area to cover. Having said that, you are going to have to come to terms with this and take a stricter approach as litter and tidiness constitute 20% of the overall marks. Litter bins are needed in a number of areas, e.g. on the road by The Oaks Park etc. You might consider employing a Litter Warden, this has worked well in other towns.

## TIDINESS

There was a mixed impression here. The approach roads were very good. Unfortunately, both litter and weeds tend to take from the overall appearance of tidiness throughout different parts of Droichead Nua. The presentation of the approach roads shows what can be achieved in the town of Droichead Nua, so try to work on this within your plan. Another example where efforts could be made to improve the appearance of tidiness is at the entrance to the car park of the GAA where little attention was noted this year.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall there are some very good presentations throughout Droichead Nua this year, well done. Ballymany Park was okay apart from weeds, which take from the overall appearance. Try to watch the weeds outside premises, for example, on the approach road from the Curragh Racecourse. Some litter was noted at the grassed area at The Oaks and also the hedging to the front of this park is quite bad with litter. There are many positive examples, to name a few would be Langton Park; The Village; Stand House Lawns; Seven Springs together with the houses opposite (well done); the entrance into Highfield was also very good but try to replace the fencing; Moore Avenue was very good; the nice development opposite the ESSO Station is also very attractive, with hedging coming on well; the Grange was also very well presented. Overall, a good performance in this section.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from the Curragh Racecourse was excellent, (congratulations here) with beautifully maintained grassed areas, very attractive flower beds and beech hedging at the Ballymany Stud creating a very positive impression. Closer in, grass had been cut at the 30 MPH sign, which was encouraging to see this year. On the approach road from Naas, it is an excellent presentation - on the right hand side, fantastic efforts by Old Connell Stud, congratulations to those involved. The left hand side was also very well presented at Wheth Medica. Approaching from the Kilcullen Road, this area needs more landscaping although the path was noted - closer in towards the junction definitely needs attention. Weeds and litter are quite bad on the road past Moore Park. On the Main Street, tree planting, particularly on the wider parts, would benefit the area in years to come. You are going to have to come to terms with the points noted about litter above. It was encouraging to see pedestrianisation taking place and street improvements at the Market Square.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator appreciates that Droichead Nua has a large area to maintain. It can only be achieved through a co-ordinated effort and with positive support from the relevant local authority. There was an improvement in the town of Droichead Nua - apart from litter. The adjudicator enjoyed the visit and looks forward to improvements for next years adjudication.