

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	27
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	189	180

Droichead Nua, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed form and map, together with your five-year plan and documentation, which were very helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators recognise that the size of Droichead Nua and its limited resources in terms of funds and support. Your plan is fairly ambitious, if you try to be more specific in relation to some of the points; it would be helpful, as would incorporating a time frame. It is encouraging to see improvements being made under the Urban Renewal Scheme with some new public buildings being developed also. Congratulations in this regard.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a mixed presentation under this category; there is room for improvement. Droichead Nua has good mix of old and new buildings. The Keadeen Hotel was very well presented. It was disappointing to see the presentation at Pine Loft; hopefully, the new tenant will improve this. A mixed presentation was noted along the Main Street; there are some good premises, but there is room for improvement in many others. Bord na Mona had a very good presentation at its entrance; well done. P. Higgins was also good. The new Garda Station was noted; well done. Kilmartins was good, as was Irish Ropes. Wyeth Medica had an excellent presentation. All the schools were generally well presented. Try to paint the Liffey Arms; it would improve this immensely. Newbridge Cutlery is much improved, with the fountain noted. Improvements in the paving were noted outside the Credit Union and Maginn's. Try to paint up Yvonne's. Curragh Travel was good, as was the pedestrian area on the side street; congratulations on the improvements here. This is one very positive step for the town and hopefully will bring improved vitality into the centre of Droichead Nua. Other premises that were well presented included Long's Pharmacy, Chart Busters, Vanessa's and Zoya which was excellent. An excellent effort was also noted with flowers on the buildings on Georges Street. Nice in-fill residential developments were noted at Henry Court. Choice furnishings could be improved. Try also to paint Coffey's and Con Cummins's. Other premises should be encouraged to improve their shop fronts, one example being Golden House. Newbridge College is beautifully presented; it is a very attractive setting with the river running by it. At P. Flannagan's try to remove the stickers and bunting. It is good to see improvements around the Courthouse but this area was not well cared for, or may not have been completed at time of adjudication.

LANDSCAPING

The grounds of the Keadeen Hotel were excellent again this year. The green outside Newbridge Garden Centre was also well presented. At the amenity area by the bridge, there was a much improved presentation this year. It was good to see that this area

was litter free. The area opposite Watergates was also very well presented, as was the large grassed area adjacent to Quinnsworth. The adjudicator would especially like to commend the landscaping which has taken place on the approach roads. It is great to see that what started out several years ago as an effort on one stretch has extended to other roads. Congratulations in this regard. It was good to see the Irish Ropes Social Club much improved, well done. Overall, a very good presentation under this category. Try to continue this along the Main Street. Also, it was nice to see the use of flower baskets along the pedestrianised area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the town. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the town, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are there woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as urban spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of future importance, e.g. school grounds and gardens, derelict sites etc. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Droichead Nua would include the identification of the flora and fauna in the area, preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan and the carrying out of tasks including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. It was great to see wheelchair access at the Watergates area. Well done in this regard; it is a big improvement. Tree planting was also noted here. The River Walk is a valuable amenity, and the riverside area was much improved this year. Well done.

LITTER CONTROL

This section considers the absence of litter and dumping. It also looks at the prevention and control of litter, and measures of anti-litter awareness in the community. It also looks at the provision, number and siting of litterbins, and the type of litterbins. In this regard, the adjudicators commend the efforts by Droichead

Nua in order to improve litter control awareness campaign. Litter was not too bad this year; some small sprinklings were noted here and there, for example, outside the boundary wall of The Grange and in areas of Pairc Mhuire. It was also evident in outlying areas, for example, outside the Sports Centre. The adjudicators recognise the large area encompassed within Droichead Nua. Try to maintain vigilance in this regard. The Main Street was generally litter free, well done in this regard.

TIDINESS

It was good to see recycling facilities located throughout the town, outside Ballymany Shopping Centre and Quinnsnorth. The approaches to the town are very neat and tidy, which give a very good appearance. The two main approaches north and south along the motorway give a very neat and tidy appearance. Watch the illegal fly posting which was evident in one or two areas on ESB boxes etc. Generally, there is a tidy appearance along the Main Street; however, some of the buildings detract from this, as do on-going new developments. An improved appearance could be helped by co-ordinated efforts to improve signage and improving of surfacing and kerbing. The efforts in the pedestrianisation of streets help to create a very tidy appearance. Well done in this regard.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There was a relatively good presentation noted throughout Droichead Nua this year, well done. The entrance to Moorefield Park was excellent as were The Grange and Mount Carmel. Excellent efforts were noted at Barretstown Lawns. A good effect was noted with bedding plants at Ballymany Park and the green outside Moore Park was quite good. A new residential park was noted to the right of Quinnsnorth. There were some very good individual efforts also noted, for example, one on the corner of Eyre Street. Some excellent individual efforts were noted in Pairc Mhuire, for example, 1674 and 1675 are just two examples. Unfortunately, sprinklings of litter were evident throughout this development and some premises would benefit from painting. Generally, not a bad presentation under this category this year.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Congratulations on the excellent approach roads from The Curragh and Naas. It is great to see a good presentation here which created a very positive impression on entering the town. Approaching from The Curragh, try to continue the kerbing on the left-hand side. It is good to see the Irish language incorporated into Droichead Nua sign. The approach from Naas is very neatly cut, with beautiful planting. Congratulations to those involved. On the other minor approach roads, more attention is needed, e.g. from Kilcullen. Cobble locking was noted on the road to Newbridge College, which is nice to see. It is good to see pedestrianised streets looking very attractive on the day of adjudication. Well done. Try to continue to improve some of the side roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is good evidence of works carried out under this category this year. This section considers the overall integrated presentation of the town, and one, which the adjudicators felt, was quite good. However, considerable improvements could be made, for example, to the built environment even by regular painting of premises. Try to work on this for next year. The adjudicators look forward to the implementation of your plan. Keep up the good work.