

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DROGHEDA**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	29
The Built Environment	40	26	28
Landscaping	40	27	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	16
Litter Control	40	23	25
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	189

Drogheda, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The overall map supplied to the adjudicator was very helpful and appreciated. The plan of the Corporation's objectives for the 1997 - 2001 is commendable. The Tidy towns committee should also produce a plan and set their objectives clearly. This plan could be undertaken with the Corporation's plan in mind. Because there is so much building development and sewage works causing disruption in Drogheda careful planning is needed to alleviate the outcome of these developments.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Drogheda includes a wide variety of buildings. There are ancient historic buildings as well as old and new commercial and residential buildings. The Corporation's buildings at Fair Street (former Corn Exchange/Courthouse) has been tastefully restored and this has the effect of upgrading the area in general. An assessment street by street of all shop signs and name styles would be a good exercise. The Order of Malta Training Centre and Alzheimers Society Day Centre is nicely constructed and linked to the St. Laurences Gate. In general business premises in the town are well presented and show up those needing attention.

LANDSCAPING

The standard of floral displays in and around Drogheda is very good. Hanging baskets and window boxes brighten up even the dulllest building or situation. The containers on the bridge are particularly attractive. There are many opportunities within green areas for tree planting. Tree planting is especially important as more and more building development occurs in Drogheda. Trees planted in groups of five or six give a pleasant effect rather than single trees. St. Dominicks Park offers a wonderful opportunity for providing the green space badly needed as Drogheda expands. More tree planting on green areas on river banks and road side verges would be beneficial.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river and surrounds offer opportunities for wildlife appreciation. There are extensive banks. Information boards and selected walkways would be helpful. Availing of local environmental groups to assess possibilities would be a worthwhile project. Many of the old buildings have interesting plants growing on their structure. When cleaning these care should be taken to retain at least some of these. Similarly with hedges take care to retain these.

LITTER CONTROL

While there were plenty of litter bins about unfortunately there was a considerable amount of litter in the main streets especially around St. Peters Church.

TIDINESS

With the amount of development taking place in Drogheda it is understandable that tidiness is extremely difficult. As each development concludes it will be possible to reinstate areas and develop tidiness again. Traffic and onstreet parking gives a cluttered effect. Any effort made to relieve this by off street parking and pedestrianisation would be helpful.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A tour of the residential areas was a pleasant relaxation from the heavy traffic of the town. The importance of the treatment of open grass spaces and entrance treatment of the estates is very evident. Sometimes a few large borders rather than a number of small borders are more effective and more in keeping with the scale of the space available. Containers look well on hard surfaces rather than positioned on grass verges. Attention to detail of edging, lawn mowing and loosening tree stakes as the trees increase in girth are all very important. A good example of entrance treatment is at the Boyle O'Reilly estate. In new housing estates such as at Wheaton Hall where there is an opportunity to retain some of the original vegetation of the site, this should be a priority.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main approach roads are generally well treated The flower borders are well placed and give a good impression to passing traffic. Derelict sites detract from roads but this is inevitable in any major town and in time they become remedied. Pedestrian ways are very pleasant - West Gate ,in particular provides a very attractive walkway and is very well used. The areas behind and either side of the bus station would benefit from landscaping as this is a very prominent spot.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Drogheda is a fascinating town to visit. At present there are so many changes taking place the future looks very bright. There is a great deal of diverse work to be done and this will take vigorous work and co-operation between all the interested bodies.