

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	21	23
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	190	190

DROGHEDA, COUNTY LOUTH

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Drogheda Corporation is to be commended on its very comprehensive programme of improvement works for 1998-2002. The map and legend submitted was very useful in locating all the relevant sites. It would be helpful to have a breakdown of the projects to be achieved on a year to year basis, as you could then assess your progress annually and amend targets as the need arises. Drogheda is a large town and with so much development taking place, all areas cannot be expected to look their best all the time. The completion of the many worthwhile projects highlighted will enhance Drogheda and its facilities for the years to come. Planning for parking and pedestrianisation is very important as many of the streets were never intended for heavy traffic use. More pedestrianised areas would provide relief from the heavy traffic.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Drogheda has a wealth of fine historic buildings, there is something of interest around almost every corner. Achieving a blend with these and the newer commercial and residential properties is an interesting challenge for the Corporation. It would be valuable to see more use made of this rich architectural heritage. The plans to reconstruct and roof the Motte and Martello Tower at Millmount are very worthwhile and along with the museum and craft complex will provide a valuable amenity for the town. The development of the Bull Ring will greatly enhance the South Quay area. St. Laurences Gate is very impressive and the plans to improve its setting and for its possible re-opening would be of benefit to the whole town centre. The Corporation Offices are very attractively presented as are many of the newer commercial premises such as Wogans, The Weavers Pub and Hickeys Chemists. Bolton Square has been finished off to a good standard. St. Peters Church dominates West Street and is well maintained, however some of the other historical buildings would benefit from attention. Old Abbey Lane is in poor condition and it is hoped the works planned for here will get underway very soon. A series of permanent signs or plaques would be of value in explaining at least a dozen sites of interest around Drogheda. The unexpected little alleyways and flights of steps linking the streets in the town centre are an attractive feature and the reconstruction of these will add to the interesting character of the town. It is good to see the original character of the old buildings retained in the new developments, such as the apartment buildings in the north Strand and North Quay areas.

LANDSCAPING

St. Dominicks Park provides a welcome escape from the heavy traffic in the main streets. This large site offers scope for more planting of groups of native trees. The riverside walk would also

benefit from planting along the banks and around the Q.Mart building on the opposite side of the river. More planting in the grassed area on the approach to the Bus Station would be beneficial. The plans to landscape George's Square will much improve this much used area. The hanging baskets and containers on the bridge are very attractive. The window boxes and tubs around the town add greatly to the overall appearance. Your planned tree planting programme becomes increasingly important as more and more building development occurs.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The River Boyne and its surrounds provide a great opportunity in this regard. The river walk is a very valuable asset for the town. Provision of some more natural vegetation along the banks would be pleasant. These natural amenities can be used to develop projects in conjunction with local schools or environmental groups. Perhaps the provision of information boards to highlight the habitats and species here might be considered. Attention is also needed in relation to retaining natural hedges and old trees on buildings sites. The value of these cannot be over emphasised and our native species should not be overlooked in new plantings.

LITTER CONTROL

A town the size of Drogheda has to fight an ongoing battle with litter. On the day of inspection, the main streets were badly littered, as were the path and banks of the riverside walk. There was quite a bit of dumping in the river under the Bridge of Peace and around the Quays. This is a great pity, especially in the more scenic areas and is particularly unfortunate when there appears to be quite a lot of tourists around. This is an area which requires considerable attention and possibly the implementation of more stringent control measures by the Corporation.

TIDINESS

The level of development in progress in Drogheda at present makes tidiness extremely difficult. This situation will improve as each development reaches completion. Drogheda seems to have more than its fair share of derelict buildings but this is hopefully only a temporary problem. Areas that would benefit from attention are the riverside walk where weeds were much in evidence and the railings on the Bridge of Peace which require painting.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estates around Drogheda are quite well maintained. Tree planting and larger sized shrub borders are two issues which could be addressed in almost all areas. Retaining existing trees and hedges on building sites should be a priority as these can then become important features of the new estates. Individual gardens in estates contribute enormously to the overall appearance of the estates, as can be seen in Boyle O'Reilly,

Pearse Park and the newer estates like Stameen and Five Oaks. Re-launching the "Make Drogheda Beautiful" Campaign should be a good way of encouraging residents to maintain their gardens to the highest possible standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general the approach roads to Drogheda are well maintained. The individual gardens on both the Dublin and Belfast approach roads play a large part in enhancing these stretches of roads. There are opportunities for additional attractive landscaping on the grassy area before the Bus Station and at the vacant site near McDonalds.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Drogheda is undergoing a huge amount of change at present. The results of this will hopefully enhance the town for the years ahead. There is much potential here for Drogheda to develop as a very attractive place to live and visit. We look forward to seeing the planned projects develop over the next 5 years.