

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DRUMCREE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	--
The Built Environment	40	20	--
Landscaping	40	23	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	--
Litter Control	40	27	--
Tidiness	20	9	--
Residential Areas	30	15	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	149	--

Drumcree, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the competition. Thank you for the map, however it would be useful in future if an indication as to the work carried out could be set out on it. The competition now has an emphasis on both the urban and rural environment. The intention is to enhance it, both for the local community and for visitors. With regards to wildlife, the emphasis is on overall management and awareness rather than specific projects. A great deal of information is available from the Tidy Town notes and also you are encouraged to get in contact with local groups and experts in the various related fields. A 3-5 year plan set out in points/objectives is required. This will help the Committee to focus on the long term planning and also give them an opportunity to seek input from the community as to their requirements for the village and how they would see it developing over the next few years. Well done on the work carried out for this year's competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As there are a small number of buildings in Drumcree, each plays an important role in the village. Both Bartleys Bar and Briodys were well presented. The Church also looks well - it is an important building in the village of this size. The thatched house look exceptionally well - this is presumably the thatched Post Office that is referred to in the application form, though it now looks as though it is a private dwelling. Is the derelict cottage at the Collinstown end being tidied up?

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping is an important element of the competition, however this should be done in the context of the village. In Drumcree, it is very rural and part of it is wooded. Displays of annuals and exotics do not really have a place, however, native shrubs and plants would integrate and enhance the village. The present display of bedding, though attractive must be very time consuming. Herbaceous perennials or preferably shrubby planting would have the effect of creating a long term framework on which to work. Work was being carried out the beds on the day of judging - well done to those who carry out the hard work, though do keep in mind the long term prospectus.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Drumcree is fortunate in having such a woody area close to it. Meadows and hedgerows are other areas that can be considered as wildlife refuges. Even further out on the road to Killucan, the bog area could be considered as a project. A resource assessment could be carried out and plans drawn up as to how the specific area can be enhanced, managed and conserved.

This should be carried out in conjunction with local experts and bodies involved with wildlife conservation. Trails and walks could also be considered as other project areas.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no evidence of litter on the day of adjudication - well done. A litterbin was noticed outside the shop. Areas where you may encourage people to stop should also have litterbins preferably lidded ones to discourage scavengers.

TIDINESS

The village did not look that tidy on the day of adjudication mainly due to the lack of cutting back of hedges and grass. This is only your first year of the competition, so progress will hopefully be made in this area of the competition in future.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses were generally well kept with some nice gardens and flowers. By motivating each house owner to look after the area outside their house and perhaps another area in the village might help to create a co-operative situation which would improve the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads are viewed in a number of ways: name and speed signs should be clear and clean and grass verges should be cut neatly though marginally in some areas so as to encourage wildflower growth. This type of selective cutting should also occur on hedges, again to encourage wildflower growth. The closer to the village the more landscaped it may become though native and indigenous planting is encouraged.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Drumcee is a pleasant little village. The Church, woodland and the thatch cottage are its unique elements. Work on a plan and prioritise objectives. Best of luck with the work.