

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DROMOD**
County : **LEITRIM**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	245	243

Dromod, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It redounds to the experience of this Committee, and the strength of their imaginative plans for the future, that the presence of a disruptive sewage scheme, and the start of building projects on several sites, has not impeded the effort. The rise in marks is undoubtedly less than usual, but this is partly due to a natural slowing down among all centres near the top of the competition. When cables have been ducted, and building projects have progressed, there will be a new assessment, which will undoubtedly bring another sharp increase..

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The principal public buildings and business premises are as well presented as ever. It is appreciated that due to the normal course of fund-raising from voluntary sources, it will take some years before all the sheds at the Sligo & Leitrim Railway will be restored; as it is, the station house and platform were looking splendid on adjudication day, and the working train was a delight. The well painted corrugated iron roof at the central landscaped garden looked most attractive - this adjudicator is usually complaining about such roofs. (Walls are mentioned under "Roads Streets and Back Areas" below).

LANDSCAPING

The two most impressive landscaped sites, at the main road junction and on the marina road (and at the marina itself) were again of a very high standard, Young silver birches were flourishing - and it was noted how well tree-planting of earlier years has come on.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The location now sectioned off for a wildlife sanctuary seems eminently suitable, set between lake, woodland and agricultural land. This is an important initiative.

LITTER CONTROL

Your litter prevention programme is working very well. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

There was an almost complete absence of kerbside weed in all quarters. Weeds were again prominent, however, in the conspicuous entrance to Duignan's, and in the furthest

portion of the old railway yards - though it is understood that development of this area will take time; sometimes it is preferable to sow grass and wild flowers rather than try to keep a large space clear of growth. The screening of the vacant building on the Dublin road, mentioned in the questionnaire, did not seem to have been done. It is splendid that the unsightly structure near the Garda Barracks has been removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It was very good to see that the most recent houses, in the main street, are in keeping with those existing, and that the original stone boundary walls are being retained. The four other plots designated for housing should harmonise with the building traditions of the neighbourhood in similar ways, assuming that the guidelines provided will be followed. Private homes, old and new, throughout the village, show real pride.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces and paving are good. The removal of poles and wires from the streetscape will make an extraordinary improvement; a more dignified kind of lighting standard would help even further: all this is eagerly looked forward to. The most impressive additions this year are the new stone walls. Those on either side of the entrance to the former coach road are particularly attractive and eye-catching, auguring well for the future reopening of this road as a walk - another imaginative project.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village brimming with vitality, and never short on ideas for interesting developments.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/99)

The village centre looked magnificent on the day of second adjudication. Litter control was very good, green areas and verges of approach roads were neatly maintained and landscaping was most effective in its contribution to the overall appearance of Dromod. The area around the railway station was tidy in its presentation also and the interesting collection of old vehicles in the older section of the railway yard were a delight to explore and brought back many childhood memories for this adjudicator. Are there plans to present these in exhibition? They would be of great interest to Irish people! Could grass verges along the Farnaght road be managed for a seasonal (summer) display of indigenous wildflowers. The life buoys and their stands at the marina should be kept freshly painted together with the mooring points as this can only enhance the presentation of this important amenity area. There was a

sign for a refuse bin at the marina but there was no bin in existence! Work is progressing nicely on the new housing development and its completion should enhance the building stock of Dromod village.