

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DRUMSNA**
County : **LEITRIM**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	19	19
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	14
Litter Control	40	20	18
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	169	160

Drumsna, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The 3 -year plan makes impressive reading - though it is not clear in which year it came into operation and therefore in which year it now stands. It does not need to be stated that Drumsna has altered immeasurably - this is the present adjudicator's first time to assess the village for Tidy Towns: up to now he was one of those who passed through in the unending stream of traffic. The peace is now palpable. Perhaps the future is now in tourism - holiday and weekend, as well as the existing boating. Is there any merit in the suggestion that a developer might be sought to reinstate one or more of the formerly superb street houses, as holiday homes or apartments?

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The RC Church is handsome and well cared for. The best view of the village is from its exterior looking down towards the bridge; the least good is, unfortunately, looking up Quay Street. The building stock will be more properly assessed under Residential (below). The principal business premises are well kept. When suggesting shopfronts for awards, those in older buildings where PVC frames have been inserted in window openings, have less chance of being considered. The Guest House is well presented.

LANDSCAPING

The riverside walk is unusually pleasant. Wheelchair access is now a welcome addition. The grassed spaces with their fine trees in Main Street are well maintained. Planting towards the Quay was also favourably noted, as were the flower tubs. The Parke Memorial with its excellent new stone wall is nicely sited; the old graveyard adjacent, with its Gothic ruin, would, if strenuously tidied up, create an interesting visitor attraction. It is understood how difficult it is to find financial support in a small community: might it be possible to seek wealthy people with historic links, or well-to-do Wesleyans, elsewhere?

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

That wonderful resource, the Shannon, as well as its pastoral and sylvine hinterland, is as fine a natural amenity as one could wish. The laying out of your three walks is an imaginative project which embraces all three elements. School projects - such as the identification and listing of bird, animal and plant species, resulting in an exhibition of drawings, would be worthwhile, to engage the attention of young people.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a small amount of litter here and there. It is hard to imagine how this happens when the population is under 200.

TIDINESS

Derelict sites contribute to an inordinate degree under this heading. On adjudication day there was considerable kerbside weed at the Quay and on the Bridge; and the grassed surrounds of the roundabout were surprisingly unkempt for such an important Local Authority site.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Almost all of Drumsna is residential. Several of the handsome houses in both streets are very well maintained in spite of the difficulties. The two stone-faced houses near the bridge are among the most impressive domestic restorations seen anywhere. Suburban type houses are well kept, many of them with attractive gardens. New housing in Main Street will fit well into the scheme when adjoining builders' debris has been removed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good. New paving, and an excellent new section of stone wall near the Post Office, give an immediate sense of progress and improvement.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A small community, with an unusually fine inherited infrastructure which needs urgent and expensive - attention, making an impressive statement.