

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TRIM**
County : **MEATH**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	36
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	22	24
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	208

Trim, County Meath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is a great pity that interest in the Tidy Towns Competition has declined to such an extent that there are now only four active Committee members. Few if any towns in Ireland have such a heritage and wealth of historic buildings as Trim has. Major development work is taking place throughout the town including the town centre, the renovation of the Castle, the Dublin Road, etc. and this does create considerable difficulties. While much of this work is only incidentally associated with your activities nevertheless the Tidy Towns Committee has a key role to play. A greater effort must be made to relaunch the Committee and focus on areas where you can be effective. The preparation of a Tidy Town Action Plan would help generate wider support from the community, business section and State bodies, etc.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The castle, spires and towers dominate the skyline of Trim and generate a great sense of anticipation as one approaches the town. It is these historic buildings that give Trim much of its character. Restoration work is proceeding on the Castle and when it is complete the Castle will be a huge visitor attraction. The Churches and St. Michael's Secondary School are well maintained stone buildings. There are many fine two-storeyed residential and business premises throughout the town, e.g. the Tourism Centre. Over the years the presentation of shop fronts has greatly improved and continuing improvements are noted, however there is still work to be done. The Courthouse is boarded up and seems set for renovation. Stone walls throughout the town especially at the Navan roundabout are attractive and complement the stonework of the historic and other buildings.

LANDSCAPING

The quality of landscaping throughout the town is praiseworthy and is now one of the better features of Trim. The flower beds at several locations on the Dublin Road, at the roundabout, in the vicinity of Our Lady of Trim and further out the road together with several flower beds in other locations stand out. The landscaping at the Catholic Church and St. Joseph's Hospital is attractive and the shrubbery helps camouflage the car park at Fr. Tehan Park. The "Failte" and "Trim" flower beds are most effective and the well planted Cart and Boat add interest. The roses on

top of the stone wall at the car park at the Matchbox are a lovely feature. Fr. Tehan Park is well kept as is the amenity area near the bridge on the Dublin road and also the grounds of Our Lady of Trim. Well planted flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes throughout the town are praiseworthy. Improved landscaping at the river banks between the two bridges could be further improved and vegetation removed from the stonework of the bridge.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river is a wonderful amenity and an important wildlife habitat. On the day of inspection seeing the occasional trout rise and swallows hawking over the river gave pleasure as one surveyed the scene.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is a problem throughout the town. Litter is visible on the verges of all the approach roads, and on the main street and side streets. Quantities of litter have collected in gap and wind-trap areas. The new litter bins look well and should help but a much greater co-operative effort involving the public, the business section and the Local Authority is required. Litter is an area where the Tidy Towns Committee could take the initiative and play a key role.

TIDINESS

On-going developments do create difficulties under this heading as does litter. Poor road and footpath surfaces are also detrimental.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many attractive houses in the town and its approaches and a great number have well planted gardens. There is considerable housing development taking place especially on the Dublin Road. Most of the estates have landscaped approaches and public areas. Greater attention to detail, e.g. weeding footpath kerbing or replacing dead or damaged trees would help.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The trees on the Dublin road, at the hotel entrance and in other areas of Trim amply demonstrate the contribution that trees make, especially mature trees, to the street scape. New footpaths were noted in the central part of the town and the new litter bins and the black and gold iron bollards add to the overall impression. However footpaths and kerbings are generally in a poor state of repair in other parts of the town. Weeds are unsightly on many footpath kerbings and on several gravelled margins, e.g. as at Mornington Heights. Resurfacing of roads would make a

big difference to the appearance of the town. The concrete approaches to the bridge need painting as do several road signs.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Trim is a town with many excellent features. These can only be shown off to best advantage if all sections of the community and the State agencies work closely together. The Tidy Towns Committee can be a catalyst and also play a central role.