

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	18	19
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	194	191

Drogheda, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form, map and 5 year plan. Your objectives are set out very clearly for the next five years. Significant development has already taken place, but much still remains to be done to improve the overall environment of the town. Perhaps for next year you could provide a map with a larger scale, as it was difficult to ascertain where works had taken place.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As last year, the Churches and main public buildings are well presented. The Corporation Offices and Motor Tax Offices are very attractive. Many of the business premises on West Street and Shop Street are well maintained, but several need to pay attention to painting their upper storeys, cleaning shopfronts at street level and removing vegetation from gutters. Laurence Street still suffers from an air of dereliction, with several buildings in surprisingly poor condition. There are so many interesting historical buildings in Drogheda, but this rich heritage does not seem to be highlighted within the town, e.g. there is no signposting to St. Laurence's Gate. Other sites such as Old Abbey Lane are in dreadful condition with large-scale dumping, rampant weed growth and absence of proper surfaces. In comparison, the new Drogheda Heritage Centre is a pleasure to visit. The Millmount Museum and newly opened Martello Tower is an outstanding complex of well preserved buildings and a credit to all those involved in the project. Some thought now needs to be given to the presentation of the Motte and landscaping of the grassed area at the entrance to Millmount. A more consistent approach is needed to the presentation of all historical buildings in the town. Restoration of more of the old lanes and steps, in the same way as The Old Hill Steps, would be a very positive move. There is still a substantial amount of construction work taking place in Drogheda, including the new bridge, which will hopefully be of major benefit in relieving the overwhelming levels of traffic. Some pedestrian-only areas would be of considerable value.

LANDSCAPING

The grassed areas and flower beds near the Bus Station and at John Paul Court are very well kept and create a favourable impression to those passing through the town on the N1. The large expanses of grass at St. Dominics Park give a great sense of space. The Glen is neatly maintained but would benefit from a lot more tree planting. The

flowerbeds and numerous hanging baskets around the town centre, on the bridges, at Magdalene Street, the Quays, etc. provide a great splash of summer colour. A long-term tree planting programme for some of the smaller greens and back areas would be of benefit.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river Boyne is a wonderful natural amenity flowing right through Drogheda and offers much potential for the promotion and study of wildlife habitats close to the town centre. The idea of the riverside walk is certainly very attractive as an escape from the relentless traffic, and more could be done to improve its amenity value. Additional seating and bins, wildlife information boards and more regular cleaning of the river banks and removal of large items dumped in the river, such as the bicycle and traffic cones noted, would do much to enhance this valuable amenity.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is still a major problem in Drogheda and does not seem to have improved since last years report. The main streets in the town centre were badly littered, in particular Shop St. and West St. Back lanes are also a problem, Old Abbey Lane appears to be used as a dumping site. The riverside walk and riverbanks were the scene of large quantities of litter, broken bottles, plastic bags, etc. St. Dominics Bridge had a collection of litter gathered at its southern end, which looked like it had been there for some time. This is a problem which must be addressed through increased use of anti-litter legislation, or by some other imaginative approach, but strong action certainly needs to be taken.

TIDINESS

Drogheda does not have a tidy appearance. Inappropriate plastic signage, stained shopfront walls, kerbside weed and vegetation growing on buildings and in gutters are some of the problems which need to be addressed in the town centre. Weed growth and dumping in carparks and back areas is another area where vigilance is required. Street signage and directional signage also needs a general overhaul and a more consistent signage programme should be considered.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many beautifully maintained houses and gardens on the approach roads and in the town centre. Newer estates on the Dublin Road, such as Wheaton Hall and Beaubec are very well presented. Older residential areas like Boyle O'Reilly and other terraces are most attractive.

Some of the larger estate areas such as Ballsgrove, St. Finians Park, Brookville and Yellow Batter have well tended houses and gardens, but in some cases need to paint and weed boundary walls and cut greens more frequently.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads to Drogheda and town centre pavements are very well maintained. However, as highlighted in last years report, a professional plan is needed to restore visual amenity and counteract the messy effect produced by various types of signage, derelict sites and the back views of industrial premises, as seen from the Bridge of Peace/N1. The railings on both bridges need to be painted, as do the traffic bollards at one end of St. Dominic's Bridge. As already mentioned, many back lanes are badly littered and sprayed with graffiti. The carpark at the Bus Office needs to be weeded and tidied up. Some very attractive buildings in back areas require attention, e.g. Patrick Clarke's Pub.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Drogheda is growing rapidly and many areas have seen considerable improvements in recent times. Millmount is a flagship project and there is much of historical interest for any visitor. By paying attention to basics such as litter control, tidiness and careful presentation of the many fine buildings in your town, you should be able to achieve much. We look forward to your steady progress in the coming years.