

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DROMISKIN**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	197	194

Dromiskin, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your plans for 2000/2001 were read with interest and the map provided was helpful in highlighting the relevant projects in the village. As pointed out in last year's report, you face many difficulties due to the scale of housing and motorway development currently taking place in the Dromiskin area. However, the appearance of the village is improving year by year, thanks to your continued efforts, and your hard work will bear fruit in the longer term.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Round Tower and Protestant Church are the most striking features, and along with the old ruined church and high cross, are wonderful architectural assets for any small village. St. Peter's Church, the National School and Old School are all well maintained. Ginnitys Pub is simply, but well presented. St. Ronan's Hall would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. The old building opposite Ginnitys is nicely painted, which adds to the appearance of the crossroads. The vacant building site at the entrance to St. Ronans Villas is a problem, but hopefully this will be well on the way to being resolved by next year's adjudication. The wall beside Ginnitys Shop is in poor condition. A footpath from the village centre along the Dundalk road to the new housing estates appears to be badly needed.

LANDSCAPING

The church and National School grounds are well kept, with very attractive planting. The graveyard is neatly maintained, but more screening of the long wall in the newer part is needed. The green behind the Old School is pleasant and the rose bushes on the school wall provide a great splash of colour. Perhaps screening off the oil tank here might be considered. The planting on top of the wall along the footpath between the church and the Old School seems to be struggling. The grassed area to the front of the graveyard is neat and tidy. However, the beds along the walls leading up to the graveyard need extra attention, additional planting here or perhaps a change of trees and shrubs, as suggested last year, should prove more effective. Both the wooden information board and the Oriel Trail Map are attractive and informative and a real asset for visitors. The hanging baskets and the wheel barrow planter are a colourful addition to the crossroads area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plans to create a Biblical Garden in the Old School grounds and a wildflower garden outside the graveyard are very impressive. The idea to place the Souterrain Capstone at Chapel Cross is a great way to commemorate the heritage of your area. The development of a Slí na Sláinte or other sign-posted walk around the village would be a very valuable amenity for both residents and visitors, especially as the population of the village appears to be growing rapidly.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control overall appears quite effective. Some litter was noted on the path between the graveyard and Church View, which seems to be a busy area with people coming and going. Perhaps the provision of a litter bin on this path would help.

TIDINESS

As noted last year, this is difficult with the amount of development in progress. The village does appear fairly tidy, with weed free footpaths and well-maintained buildings. The building site in the middle of the village detracts from this, but is hopefully only a temporary situation.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of houses on the approach roads and in the village are well presented and many have beautiful gardens. Church View Estate is neat and tidy and the stone flowerbeds and rose beds look very well. The large green areas in Church View offer great scope for additional tree planting. The new housing developments are making progress and most householders are obviously concerned about the appearance of their properties. Some boundary walls need to be painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Again, the village is suffering at present because of the presence of so much heavy industrial traffic from the nearby motorway development. Kerbs and footpaths are in good condition, but additional footpaths are needed in some areas as mentioned above. Verges on the main approaches have been trimmed. The road surface on the White House Cross approach is in poor condition and needs to be upgraded. The stone walls on the approach from Castlebellingham are an attractive feature and the recently restored stone wall around the old school is also admirable. Your plan to restore the footpath around the Old School is a further worthwhile project.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Dromiskin is undergoing rapid growth and change at present. It is important that you can use this growth for the benefit of the village, perhaps by getting more people involved in the Tidy Towns effort. You are making steady progress and with a planned approach you should be able to achieve much in the years ahead.