

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	18	18
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>194</b>

## **Drogheda, Co. Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Drogheda is very welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application and, of course, your planned work programme which is most interesting. We wish you well in its implementation. Drogheda is an historic town with many heritage features and wonderful potential. The townscape has many fine features, being set at different levels, resulting in gentle rise of some of its side streets. Many stretches of limestone kerb are another important feature and, of course, the 'Plaza' type effect in Westgate street of the steps of St. Peters church. Many people were availing of the afternoon sunshine during adjudication, sitting and chatting on the steps. Side streets and lanes, especially those with steps, are an interesting feature of the town and should be presented to a higher standard, many were quiet littered. Well done on the Heritage Trail. The pace of change in Drogheda is fast, the town is dynamic and it is hoped that it will retain all of its characteristic heritage features and ambience in the face of future development.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are many fine buildings in this wonderful town. The built environment is one of your major assets. The Moorland Café is a fine building and was beautifully presented. The built environment of Drogheda features a variety of building types from single storey buildings to four storey buildings and, of course, magnificent churches and other heritage buildings. Many buildings still retain their traditional features, however quite a few are in need of greater maintenance. The stained glass windows of the old Methodist church, which have a preservation order, are very beautiful as indeed is the tiled entrance to this old building. There are still far too many inappropriate fascia signs and projective signage. The Abbey Shopping Centre needs a face-lift. Bridie Macs Teach Agus Síopa looks well, though the canopy here is a little inappropriate.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Landscaping around the town was admired. The mature rose beds on the grass verge on the southern entrance to the town were in full bloom for our first visit. The park near the Bus Eireann station has been beautifully maintained and presented and the many fine stands of mature and semi-mature trees here are a valuable heritage. Don't spend too much time and money on bedding plants at the expense of permanent plants such as trees and shrubs.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Wildflowers on grass verges on approach roads were in full bloom on adjudication day. The many trees in the town and

its environs are an important habitat under this heading also. Perhaps a survey could be undertaken of the habitats to be found in the river and along the riverbanks. A good start under this heading would be to undertake a wildlife survey and identify wildlife zones in the town and its immediate environs to ascertain the threat to wildlife from the pressure to development and other pressures and to take protective measures. The river walk is a pleasurable visual amenity on crossing the bridge and, of course, fulfils other amenity requirements of this large and busy town. Several shopping trolleys were noted in the river during our adjudication and some trapped litter was noted also. This detracted considerably from the visual impact of flower containers along the railings and, of course, the display of wildflowers growing on the river walls.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control could be a lot better, there is certainly room for improvement. Some of the litter bins needed to be emptied and most of them need to be cleaned. It is strongly recommended that you undertake a litter survey to identify the source of the problem and formulate appropriate action.

### **TIDINESS**

The main problems under this heading are undeveloped sites, weedy kerbs and walls and, of course, the litter problem.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Drogheda is fast becoming an important residential town for commuters and, of course, new residential developments are being finished to a high standard. Older residential developments ranging from Georgian to red bricked Victorian to stone buildings and modern developments are being maintained to a variety of standards, however the overall effect is good.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

A large proportion of the town centre is wirescape free and this looks well. Street furniture was not as well presented as it could be, particularly, (as mentioned previously), litter bins. Carparks are being well managed as is on-street parking. The traffic feature in the centre of the road at Domnicks Take-Away needs to be refurbished (Georges St.). The public toilets and its immediate environs looked quite well (Georges St.). Well done on the new footpaths and bridge.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Drogheda is a town that has much to offer, however the litter problem is a priority and has to take precedence.