

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DRUMCREE**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	23	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	17
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>156</b>

## **Drumcree, Co. Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Drumcree is a small village currently undergoing significant change with the construction of a holiday village. The committee should consider a three year plan to address the social and economic demands of a temporary resident population. An upgrade to the village's shop front and post office might be considered. The shop sign could be replaced with a more traditional style and the post office made more conspicuous. Reclaiming and landscaping an area along the river to improve access to this natural amenity, is also worth considering for the future.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Both Bartley's pub in the village centre and the shop are nicely presented with flowers out front. The beautifully maintained thatch cottage is a wonderful centrepiece, but the gates need some attention. The church offers great potential, although very overgrown at the time of inspection. As it has recently changed hands, it is hoped that it will be redeveloped with the interests of the community in mind. There are some fine old walls through the village which are affected by weed growth. With the holiday development ongoing, I look forward to returning when the building is complete.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Within the village, the presentation is quite good. The floral and shrub displays are encouraging. There is a welcome attempt with the walled flower beds although they appeared slightly withered. More landscaping along the river is recommended, with the possible introduction of picnic benches and a play area to attract young families.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The immediate area surrounding Drumcree is a relatively untouched, idyllic setting. There are attractive hedgerows on approach roads to the village and a good wildlife habitat has been maintained. The drafting of a wildlife survey and access to more in-depth information on these natural areas is suggested. Improved signs and roadside maps may also be considered. It will be important to provide an information point for holiday makers so as to direct them to the natural amenities.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Drumcree does not suffer from any serious litter problems. Within the village, litter is non-existent. There was evidence of some black plastic on the grass verge entering the village from the Delvin Road.

### **TIDINESS**

Generally there is a good level of tidiness. Nonetheless, there was weed growth on some walls and paths within the village. There was also a proliferation of temporary auctioneer signs on entering the

village.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Overall, the housing surrounding the village is very well maintained. There is a good mix of modern and old style housing and the grass areas in front are well cared for. There is evidence of construction with a broken boundary wall and some untidy house fronts coming in from the Delvin side.

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

The entrance roads from both the Delvin and Castlepollard sides are very well presented with mown grass verges and decorative floral displays. More attention should be given to the signs on the entrance roads and to the removal of cut grass. It is disappointing to see the wall along the bridge in such a state of disrepair and very poorly cordoned-off. It is hoped this will be addressed in time for next year. On a positive note, all the road surfaces are excellent.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Drumcree is a small village undergoing some change. It has great potential which will be realised with the completion of the holiday home development. Its natural beauty and peaceful surroundings, weigh heavily in its favour.