

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DRUMSNA**  
County : **LEITRIM**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	31
The Built Environment	40	19	19
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	9	10
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>176</b>

# **Drumsna, County Leitrim**

## **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Drumsna Development Association seems to have a high level of support from the local community in terms of financial contributions to functions etc. A lot of effort has obviously gone into the formulation of your development plan but unfortunately this did not appear to be reflected on the ground. Your development plan is quite extensive and the projects planned are extremely interesting – i.e. the walking routes and creating a focal point for the village on the Fair Green. The photographs of the village in the winter snow looked magnificent. Perhaps for next year's competition you could confine your submission to the rear section of this document – outlining the projects proposed and when they are to be completed. This new format will be of great help to the adjudicators as they will be able to see what has been achieved over the years. It will also be of great benefit to yourselves to monitor your own progress.

## **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The church is a charming building in its prominent location – the church itself and its boundary wall were in need of painting. The Stop and Shop was reasonable but its boundary wall was quite grubby. The garage was badly in need of painting. A charming building with a stepped gable was greatly admired and should be painted up in order to show it to its best advantage. McLoughlin's is also a charming front but somewhat grubby. The Post Office is fine. Garvey's Lounge was fresh but its plastic signs should be removed and replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Thomas Duignan's and the grocery next door were extremely fresh. There are many fine buildings in the village which have examples of most unusual plasterwork. These would be a great asset to the village if restored to their former glory.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The Fair Green was quite inconsistent in its presentation – it was quite overgrown to one side but appeared to have been cut to the other. Perhaps problems in this category of the competition were due to the appalling recent rainy weather. The supports for a bench were evident in this location but the seat itself was missing. The incidental landscaped space beside Garvey's was admired and the waterside area appeared to be presented to a higher standard than the rest of the village. However, the boat filled with planting in this location looked quite weedy. Hopefully you will have a new building for servicing this area at the waterside similar to those of other towns in the locality.

## **WILDLIFE**

Your nature walks should be a marvelous asset to this category of the competition when they are implemented. Lily pads and bog irises were evident to the far side of the water in the vicinity of the harbour.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good. However in a village of Drumsna's size even one or two papers are all the more evident. Some litter was evident at Quay Street and a few more scattered along the Main Street in the vicinity of the Fair Green. The new litter bins in this location were noted and admired.

## **TIDINESS**

Drumsna unfortunately has a number of derelict and empty buildings. Many of these are for sale – do ensure that you monitor on their development and ensure that they are in keeping with the village's unique character. Kerbsides were extremely weedy and it was quite overgrown leading down to the harbour area. Consider screening the recycling bins. A rusty container in the harbour area created a bad impression and the flag poles opposite the church were quite rusty. The empty buildings and derelict sites will need to be addressed in order to progress this aspect of the competition. Even if permission was obtained to paint up the empty buildings it would make a huge difference!

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Gardens and houses throughout the village were generally fine. Shannon Lodge B&B looked well although some staining was evident to its façade beneath the sign. Do resist the temptation to remove the render to reveal stonework on houses as this will lead to the practical problems of stone deterioration and water penetration as well as being incorrect from a conservation point of view-vernacular Irish houses were meant to be covered in plaster!

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

The standard in this category of the competition was not good. The adjudicator noted your ongoing problems in regards to the sewage scheme for the village and its long history of problems and extensions of time. Hopefully this will be resolved before next year's competition. The village nameplate on the Carrick-on-Shannon side of the village was extremely grubby and the grass verges were overgrown and weedy. More weeds were evident at the bridge on the Roscommon side of the village and the nameplate on this side was quite grubby and faded. The road surface to the quay side was quite potholed and this should be attended to.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Drumsna is a very pretty little village located on the fine natural asset on the Shannon-Erne waterway. It could be a beautiful little centre with more active effort from individuals in the community. Sadly at the moment it looks rather neglected.