

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-08-2002

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2002 | Mark Awarded 2001 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 36 | 36 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 18 | 18 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 11 | 10 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 202 | 199 |

Drogheda, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Many thanks for the useful map and the information. Drogheda is expanding at a considerable rate. It is fine town with many historic sites and amenities. The new by pass will help to create an even better town in the future. The industrial heritage is very noticeable, particularly down by the Quays where some of the old buildings have been refurbished and reused. It was heartening to see both concern and interest in a better town and environment.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The centre of the town has a historic core and many of the buildings were well kept. The railway station looked very well and was neat and tidy with some nice planting. The town is lucky to have such super and historic enclaves as those at the Millmount and were very nicely presented. The bus station however looked grotty – the plastic roofing needed attention and there was litter and graffiti in places. It is not a very welcoming place for the Tourist Information Office. The Garda Station on the banks of the river commands great views. The Abbey Shopping Centre looked fresh. Many of the pubs throughout the town were well presented – O'Caseys Bar on Trinity Street, the Railway Bar on the Dublin Road, the Pheasant and Sarsfield to name a few. Drogheda College of Further Education required repainting. The judges were delighted to see archaeological digs being carried out in the centre of the town and look forward with anticipation to any findings. Cumann O'Rathallaigh was also presented well – well done.

LANDSCAPING

Incidental planting throughout the town looked well. Baskets despite the poor summer were giving their best. Although wild, the valerian opposite the Garda Station on the banks of the river was buzzing with life and the vista down through the Bridge of Peace was very pleasant. The competition to encourage to make Drogheda beautiful amongst its inhabitants is commendable. Perhaps you should consider the inclusion of the North Quays for the tree planting programme. They would enhance the area further.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENTIES

With such an amenity as the river, wildlife focusing on all aspects of its flora and fauna should be considered. The involvement of local schools through a schools environmental campaign and as part of their curriculum would help to get projects off the ground. Birdwatch Ireland (the largest environmental organisation in Ireland) have a branch in the Boyne Valley and may be able to help. Another consideration would be the Green schools initiative that is organised by An

Taisce.

LITTER CONTROL

Again, similar to many particularly large towns, a litter ethic must be instilled from an early age. The town was not too bad in relation to litter on the day of judging though there was a light scattering of litter in some areas such as the bus station, along narrow West St. and along some of the grass verges. *Make Drogheda Beautiful* and the *Schools Environmental Campaign* are two vehicles which can be used as well as the Louth County Council Litter action plan. The judges would be interested to have inclusion with the application any strategies that include recycling.

TIDINESS

Drogheda was reasonably tidy. The roadside verges on many of the approach roads did however require cutting. It was also difficult to judge some areas due to on going construction works though for such a large and expanding town, the appearance was tidy. The derelict area opposite Cumann Ui Rahallaigh required attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Drogheda is typical of many fast growing commuter towns with a large number of new residential developments on its outskirts – some in a more complete state than others. Some of the estates off Duleek St. had some nice planted area though unfortunately, some of the houses did require attention. Incidental planting in other estates such as Bellgrove, and estates up the Rathmullen road looked well. Forest Grange, Forest Hall, Harmony Heights all presented well. The town is fortunate in having a core of red brick terraced houses – can anything be done to motivate these communities to provide baskets/flowers – this has been achieved in various small streets in Limerick and looks very well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is a huge amount of building going on in the Slane direction and the judges look forward to its completion. The Bridge of Peace has to cope with a great deal of traffic and in general the by pass will help to divert these, particularly the HGV's. The Dublin Road sweeps nicely into the town and the red and white roses looked well under the trees. The Duleek and Beamore Roads need some type of an entrance/welcome to the town. The Rathmullen Road looked well with good presentation from the residents. The Donore Road also needed some type of an entrance, as it is quite untidy near the bus station. The Belfast Road had some roses though improvement could also be considered here. Grass verges needed cutting in most cases.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Drogheda is progressing in the competition. Attention needs

to be given to the wildlife section of the competition and also to the approach roads. Valuable marks could be gained in each section. Good luck.