

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromhane**

Ref: **525**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **150**

Category: **B**

Date: **24/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	
The Built Environment	40	20	
Landscaping	40	21	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	
Litter Control	40	21	
Tidiness	20	10	
Residential Areas	30	15	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	
General Impression	10	5	
TOTAL MARK	300	150	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the Tidy Towns competition. It is good to have new entrants. Tidy Towns committees are frequently motivators for development in towns and villages. Their work with public authorities is important in highlighting the work that such bodies need to do and by liaising with them great progress can be made in areas that may have, otherwise, been overlooked. And with a committee membership of twenty people, a great amount can be achieved.

The first and most important function is to assess the present situation; the direction the village is going; population growth; the requirements of residents; the natural features of the area that need to be preserved or restored, etc. Then make a plan that focuses on how the committee will manage developments over the next 3 to 5 years, using specific targets so progress can be assessed from year to year and the plan adjusted if necessary. Consult the Tidy Towns Handbook, available from the Tidy Towns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, for assistance on this.

The map submitted was very helpful in identifying the various areas of interest within the village. The proposals relating to tree planting seem to be part 4 of a more comprehensive proposal. This and the remainder should be considered when drawing-up your 3/5 year development plan.

The Built Environment:

The built environment consists of the church, two public houses, shops, the school, the original village houses and massive new building developments. The wall of the carpark at the church and surrounds of the church need some attention to weeding and cleaning. There is an attractive stonewall opposite the church. The community hall is well presented. The Calorgas tank to the front of this could be moved or camouflaged in some way. The wall at Penty's Crossroads is very dirty and needs attention. A derelict shed type building beside the Hickeys Public house will also need attention.

Landscaping:

The planting at Russell Place is attractive. A number of trees are planted on the green. Some attention to grass at the base of these trees would be helpful. The planting within the tractor tyres, while attractive, is not really necessary as the plants could be planted directly into the ground. A number of gardens in the village contribute very well to the overall landscape of the village, such as on the Mallow Road and Glanthane Road and also a few above Penty's Crossroads. There is one particularly attractive garden on the corner near the church. All these gardens are an important part of the landscape of the village. The new housing estates are weak in landscaping at present and greater attention is needed both to the open spaces at the entrances and within the estates. The landscaping frequently defines the estate and with careful tree planting, good grass maintenance and some shrub and flowers borders, they will look very well. Tidy Towns committees should keep a watchful eye on developers to ensure they finish and reinstate sites before departing from the site and that provision for planting is in place.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A project under this heading should be developed. Consult the Tidy Towns Handbook for information and ideas in this regard.

Litter Control:

The litter collections that are organised by the Tidy Towns committee are very valuable. Keeping anti-litter to the fore of peoples minds is very important and all forms of promotions are worthwhile. Litter will accumulate quickly and a twice-weekly collection may not be sufficient

Tidiness:

At present, because of all the disruption caused by the massive building programme in the village, many places are suffering untidiness. When all the development work is complete a more unified approach can be taken in this regard. However, there are other areas which could be focussed on, such as opposite the Dromahane Stores where the shed and adjoining gate look untidy. Also, along the roadsides, attention to detail will help in this regard. The monument is in need of cleaning and weeding at the base. Road signs at the Penty Cross need attention also.

Residential Areas:

The residential houses along the Glanthane Road are well cared for and the gardens are attractive. The houses at Russell Square are also well tended. Individual houses along the roadsides look well. Many of the new housing estates are incomplete and at various stages of development in regard to gardens. The remarks above apply here also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The surface of the roads through the village is very broken due possibly to the vast amount of development work in progress. Some resurfacing has taken place, but this needs to be extended up to Hammond Place Green. Roadside verges also need attention. Cutting, trimming, defining exactly

where the edge is and renovating gaps in hedges or fences are all part of the work required. Footpaths are also needed badly, particularly with the large influx of population and having regard to safety for road users, especially children.

General Impression:

There are many interesting challenges to be faced in Dromahane, but with long term commitment and effort these should be overcome. In time, the village will become an even more attractive place, both for the original residents and for those coming new into the area. Best of luck for the future.