

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromiskin**

Ref: **400**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **212**

Category: **B**

Date: **23/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	16
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	16	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>207</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. This entry contained a very well completed Entry Form and associated information, a three-year Development Programme, a Town Map and a very good series of photographs showing work completed. Well done. These documents are of great help to the Adjudicator in seeing the work being done and they should also be of benefit to the Committee in monitoring the yearly programme. The Committee's liaison work with the County Council, FÁS, and with the pupils of the local schools and the local community shows in the sponsorships, collections and other involvements. It is very important to continue this liaison work with the various groups mentioned above as they can give invaluable help and advice to the Committee.

### The Built Environment:

A most interesting village with a series of interesting focal points. A heritage area containing a round tower, the remains of a striking high cross, the ruins of the original monastery church and a disused Church of Ireland church. The crossroads, with its small shopping centre, pub and other shops. The third focal point contains the very fine new church adjoining the new schools and the old school. The grounds of all these buildings are extremely well planned and maintained. It was noted that these entire grounds won the Green Flag award for the development of these magnificent grounds. Well done.

## **Landscaping:**

Truly excellent work has been done on the Church and School grounds by the pupils of the schools, the Committee and the people of the village. The Green Flag Award is a fitting award for this work. The Biblical Garden is very interesting. It is slowly maturing and what is needed now are more explanations of these plants and a general title to the entire project. The site works around St. Ronan's Hall is very well maintained and presents a good welcome at the entrance to the village. It is suggested that a tree planting programme should be organised by the Committee to provide trees in strategic parts of the village and along the streets of the village as infill points and also in residential areas. The pupils of the school should again be a very strong element in this programme, not only to give them a pride in their village, which they undoubtedly have, but their involvement could curtail any damage to the trees. Trees should be berried or having other forms of fruit. Species could be oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut or thorn. The filling station should now develop a planting scheme to bring it up to the quality of other parts of the village. Again, the entire cemetery containing the heritage buildings seems forgotten, perhaps this cemetery could be improved.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

There is a wealth of shrubs and trees in the village to encourage bird life. What is needed now is a tree planting programme, in small spinneys if possible. The Adjudicator will look forward with interest to the development of this method of encouraging bird life within the village itself. The Committee should contact ENFO to obtain some of the very fine publications they produce on wildlife conservation.

## **Litter Control:**

There was no litter in Dromiskin on the day of adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated on this fine achievement and its continuous programme on the fight against litter in its various forms. The school patrols sound a wonderful idea and is a great credit both to the Committee and the people of the village. The addition of extra litter bins is great. Hopefully, a site will be found for the recycling bin unit, adjoining the shopping centre car park seems the ideal place.

## **Tidiness:**

The village is charming and most tidy and again this is great credit to the Committee who help to keep it so.

## **Residential Areas:**

There are some very fine small residential areas around the village. It is suggested to the Committee that they should organise two Competitions, one for gardens throughout the village, with special attention to new garden owners, and secondly to have a Competition between the small housing areas mentioned above. Within a few years these two Competitions could make a significant impact on the entry points into the village and to extend the feeling of welcome that already exists in the gardens on the approach roads.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The verges of the approach roads into the village were well maintained on the day of adjudication. If it is found that the wide verges, in places, are too wide and onerous for grass cutting, a verge of one and a half metres is sufficient to cut. The remaining uncut grasses can be left as a contrast and possibly sown in wild flower mixes. This area can then blend into the adjoining hedgerows and be an added area for fauna. A programme should be organised to keep road signs clean and free of grasses.

**General Impression:**

Dromiskin is a very welcoming and pleasant village and the Committee is to be congratulated on the tremendous work done by the pupils of the schools and the residents of the village. It shows in the quality of finishes and general care on the approach roads to the village, the streets within the village and the many individual buildings.