

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drogheda**

Ref: **529**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **219**

Category: **F**

Date: **12/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	21	22
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	219	215

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks to Drogheda Borough Council for entering this year's competition. Thank you also for the comprehensive application form, the future plans for the town and the map that was very useful to the adjudicator. It is important that the committee lists out the work that has been undertaken since the previous year's adjudication as this will help the adjudicator award marks for the valuable work being carried out. It would also be useful to give estimated time frames for the objectives listed and then next year highlight the works that have been completed. The creation of a stand alone Environment Section is welcomed at the Borough Council as is the continuing co-operation with other statutory bodies, residents and voluntary associations.

The Built Environment:

A very historic town with an equally historic River Boyne running through it, the Council are to be congratulated on the refurbishments that have taken place (and are continuing) throughout the town i.e. Lawrences Gate, Millmount Complex etc. There are a number of developments taking place but it must be said that these are well screened during construction and wear and tear on the streets appear to have been kept to a minimum - well done on this achievement. The new hotel is replacing some of the derelict sites along this stretch of river. In order to increase the scoring in this section it would be useful to include in next year's plan a brief report on the results of the Derelict Sites audit and how these are to be dealt with in the future as there is quite a lot of them not only by the river but also throughout the town.

Landscaping:

The landscaping around the town in general is very attractive and noticeable. As one drives around the town it is evident that care and attention continues to be placed in enhancing the area through a planned landscaping programme. Included in the objectives at no. 12 is the proposal to implement a tree planting programme at a number of named locations throughout the town and the adjudicator looks forward to this work being carried out. The river is a wonderful area in the town and all plans to landscape at the named sites on the river is most welcome. The more the river can be opened up and enhanced through landscaping for both local people and visitors to walk along and enjoy the better. There is an urgent need to improve the landscaping at the north approaches to the town at the roundabouts and roads.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the Mallard Introduction Project - this is a very welcome addition and, as stated, will enhance the wildlife upstream on the River Boyne. They were not evident at the time of this adjudication but hopefully this programme will proceed as planned and we look forward to confirmation of this in next year's entry form. ENFO and the Heritage Council should be contacted for some of their publications on conservation and wildlife. The council should consider the erection of information boards particularly down by the estuary area viewing point and these could be completed with the help of the local schools or transition year students.

Litter Control:

Litter control within the main streets of the town was good on the day of adjudication - Well Done! However there was quite a lot of litter on the approach roads to the town and caught up in the grass verges. Some of the outlying areas had litter strewn around, e.g. The Mell and Yellowbatter. Batchelors' Lane East was covered in litter and no bins were evident. The entry form submission states that new bins are being planned and this is to be welcomed as some of the bins now require replacing or painting and cleaning. The council are to be congratulated on the proactive approach they have to dealing with litter in the town. It is useful that the litter wardens visit the schools and give talks to the pupils so that they are aware that it is the responsibility of all to be involved in the fight against litter.

Tidiness:

In general, the open spaces and landscaped areas are very well maintained, however weeds are growing through the pavements and at the base of walls in some areas and this needs to be addressed. There are some businesses that need to enhance their premises and perhaps the Borough Council could enlist the help of the Chamber of Commerce in organising a competition for different categories. While many of the shop fronts looks very well and have erected hanging baskets, others require painting and cleaning of signs. In addition, large companies should ensure that their premises are well presented for the competition, e.g. Monaghans has a very large site on both sides of the North Strand and offices on the quay. These buildings are very unsightly, dull and require refurbishment. The Borough Council needs these type of premises to act responsibly and care for their own premises as the council cannot possibly do this work. The iron fencing erected outside the Football Grounds at Cross Lanes requires, at the very least, repainting.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas of the town in the main are very well presented. The estates along the Termonfeckin Rd., including the tree planting along this road, deserve special praise; College Rise, Harmony Heights to name two. Competitions between estates is a great way of encouraging co-operation and motivation, e.g. best maintained estate, best maintained gardens, estate with the least litter visible, etc. which will all go towards developing community spirit in towns and villages

and is worth exploring in Drogheda. Local newspapers are very interested in these types of competitions and normally get involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As stated in last year's report, roads, streets and back areas are a mixture of either very good or poor. Some work is still required on approach roads into the town. Other roads require upgrading eg. Francis St. has a number of derelict sites on it and untidy verges and footpaths. However, other areas have improved dramatically; the River amenity area and walkways were very tidy and attractive. The Bridge of Peace was very colourful as was the Bull Ring Bridge. The Church, School grounds and Garda Station were also looking very well maintained. The Dyer Street and Wellington Quay areas have developed into attractive, mainly litter free streets and hopefully this can be repeated throughout the town.

General Impression:

Drogheda is a town full of history and character. The Borough Council has shown vision and drive in it's effort to enhance the appearance of the town. Some of the refurbishments that have taken place have been very large undertakings and all concerned should be very proud of their achievements; Boyne Walkway, Millmount Complex, St. Laurences' Gate, etc. It is important that the approach roads and roundabouts into the town are upgraded and landscaped. As mentioned, all the local businesses need to assist the council in their work by taking responsibility for the upgrading and appearance of their own premises. There has been much work already done to the quay area and this will continue to develop into an interesting and attractive urban space.