

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromin** Ref: **1387**
County: **Louth** Mark: **196**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	10
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	196

Overall Development Approach:

Dromin was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

Dromin is a small town but has a rich heritage, with an ancient church ruin and graveyard. The Ordnance Survey Discovery series map indicates the presence of a motte (a mound upon which the Anglo-Normans built their fortification around the 12th century) and a holy well. These are important heritage features and informative panels at these sites can do much to raise awareness. An old thatched cottage on the road to Dunleer is an enormous cultural asset but is sadly in disrepair. A project to re-roof this house would greatly enhance the character of the town. The Village Saloon shop is to be commended for its shop-front and colourful hanging baskets.

Landscaping:

The church, while a fine building in itself, could be enhanced with some planted trees or even flower pots to add colour. This approach could be applied throughout the town as there is little by way of landscaping. The area across from the 'Village Saloon' shop is tidy but bare. The picnic tables are welcome but some

trees/shrubbery would greatly add to its amenity value. Landscaping should use native species where possible as this is also likely to benefit wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The tall trees coated in ivy in the graveyard are excellent wildlife habitats. Ivy in particular can be home to bats and nesting birds, as well as nectar for insects in autumn, and berries for birds in spring. The graveyard also has beautiful specimens of yew and holly. The hedgerows around the town are of enormous value as wildlife habitats and should be carefully maintained. This means only cutting back during winter (October – February) and allowing some trees in them to grow tall. Small information panel can do much in increase awareness of these features.

Litter Control:

The town was practically litter free on the day.

Waste Minimisation:

Without details of ongoing community projects, it was difficult to assess the extent of progress being made under this category and I would look forward to seeing whether progress has in fact been made on future assessments. However taking into account the existing council facilities and SuperValu's own commitment in this area, I believe a nominal mark is appropriate for this year. There are however plenty of ways in which local communities can assist in tackling this growing problem and many useful tips are contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the TidyTowns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Tidiness:

The town is generally tidy and uncluttered. Limited, appropriate landscaping would do much to improve its appearance.

Residential Areas:

Dromin is a very small town and does not have residential areas as such. A new development off the main road is well presented with beautiful gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are fantastic hedges on the approach road to Dromin. Some welcome signs on approaching the town would greatly add to the character of the town.

General Impression:

Dromin is a small town rich in heritage but perhaps more could be done to advertise this. A small amount of additional landscaping and signage would greatly add to the overall feel of the town.