

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromiskin** Ref: **492**
County: **Louth** Mark: **222**
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

Dromiskin is welcome to the 2007 national Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for the copy of your five year work programme. We wish you every success in its implementation and acknowledge the work accomplished for this year. Dromiskin has a valuable heritage with wonderful features, and is well positioned on the Oriel Trail. It's closeness to the town of Dundalk has its advantages, however it is important that the village does not lose it's unique character with a large increase in population.

The Built Environment:

The majority of buildings look particularly well. The supermarket looks good as does Herity's Bar and Ginnety's at the crossroads. The Centra, garage and shopping complex which is a new development looks particularly well with attractive building materials however encourage the proprietor of both Claire's and Angel's to use open lattice type shutters together with internal lighting to enhance the village-scape outside of business hours. Both the church and its grounds together with the school and its grounds were admired.

Landscaping:

Stands of Rowan trees in the school grounds are attractive and no doubt attract a lot of birdlife. The green traffic island located outside of the school marking the road junction is nicely presented and the stone plaque here is an attractive feature, hopefully the ugly service pole will be removed in the not too distant future. The hard landscaped area of the stone boat and seating together with water pump near the monastic church is a nice example of heritage landscaping. In future planting ensure that trees and other plants complement those of the surrounding countryside. Congratulation on the acquisition of the new sculpture.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is important to be aware of wildlife habitats of the village and the surrounding countryside in order to protect them in the event of future development. With this goal in mind your proposed wildlife survey to be undertaken with the local school is exciting. Perhaps the children could be encouraged to do a bird species count in the school ground. Well done on the installation of the bird boxes and the wildlife meadow. The entrance gates, walls and drive to St. Josephs's GFC Cluskey Park 1979 are in need of refurbishment.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in the village on adjudication day with the exception of the area outside of Angelo's Takeaway which consisted of a few soft drinks cans. Your litter control activities are noted and appreciated. Good luck with the acquisition of the new bins. Hopefully litter is segregated after collection for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the local school children for their participation in the Green Schools Programme with waste being reduced by 60%. Your Green Homes Scheme is an exciting initiative and we are interested to know the outcome. Well done on the high attendance at the community composting workshop.

Tidiness:

Weedy curbs were noted throughout the village and a few undeveloped sites had an untidy appearance. As in previous years the Dromiskin Service Station continues to be an eyesore in your lovely village. So it is a great pleasure to note that you have the cooperation of the owner to rectify this situation. A derelict site out the Dundalk Road was problematic under this heading also. Your representations regarding the ugly service pole in the village centre is appreciated.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties are nicely presented overall and many gardens were admired, a number of properties were in need of a little more attention to their roadside boundary walls especially on the road to the church. There were some fine examples of well maintained grass verges to the roadside of the boundary walls both across from the church and in the cul de sac at the northern end of the village; however the empty frame on one across from the church should be removed. The nameplate of the new estate near Angelo's should be repainted with gold as its almost illegible now and its large green open space marking the entrance might be landscaped. A number of roadside areas to boundary walls on the Dundalk road were nicely presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The southern approach road to the village looked well in respect of road verges. Road surfaces and footpaths in the village centre were good overall however the road edges out past the monastery and at the junction across from the monastery were particularly bad and the empty frame here should be removed, this site might also be landscaped. A water pump nearby is in need of refurbishment, however most items of street furniture looked well.

General Impression:

Dromiskin is an attractive village with an important heritage of which it appears to be aware and rightly proud.