

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DROMAHAIR**
County : **LEITRIM**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is some time since this adjudicator was last in Dromahair and it was particularly pleasing to see so many of the suggestions of past years acted upon. Much of the village has reached a very high standard indeed. Every effort must be made to upgrade the remaining areas. This will certainly mean the encouragement of much more of the community to become actively involved. The committee is to be commended for its initiative in organising fundraising events, a weekly raffle, a sponsored walk and forming an anti-litter group. Working in co-operation with FAS and the local authority has also paid dividends. Your detailed responses on the entry form and clearly drawn map were most helpful during adjudication.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Dromahair has rich wildlife habitats on its doorstep. The lake is nearby but the mature trees, hedgerows and stone walls which are key elements of the village are all enjoyed by wildlife. As well as the natural countryside, the built and landscaped environment also provides a home for insects, birds and animals. As a Tidy Towns committee you have an important role to play in protecting, enhancing and increasing the wildlife value of your community. Therefore nature conservation should be included in your long term plans and development work. A good starting point would be to identify the particular habitats of Dromahair and see which species these attract. You might invite your local environmental experts and groups to become involved to advise you and provide the specialist information you will require.

LANDSCAPING

The planted tubs and other containers throughout the village were admired, especially those with trailing nasturtiums. The area of the new pump behind the presbytery is most effective as it is quite in keeping with the ambiance of The Line. Other commendable developments are the garden at Drumlease School, the green opposite the Maxol Garage and Peter's Sweep. It is a shame that the river walk to Creevelea Abbey can not be cleaned up as it is an important amenity and, of course, habitat. It is important that you continue tree planting to ensure in years to come that Dromahair will still be synonymous with mature trees. There are still further incidental spaces such as at the start of the river walk by the hostel which could be developed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is a great pity that it has not yet been possible to develop the site of J. Maguire which in view of its location at the top of the town and opposite the old abbey has unique potential. The total composition comprising old and new parts of Craft and Sweaters Shop is extremely successful - congratulations to those concerned! There were other fine presentations, but outdated plastic signage on some was regrettable. Also try to restrict clutter caused by advertising devices including window stickers. G. Clarke was admired for its simplicity, the Post Office for its unobtrusiveness and J. Stanford for its subtle use of colour and tree planting. The Breffni Centre Hotel appeared to have been freshly painted. It is considered that the porch on the front of the Abbey Hotel detracts from the otherwise fine building. The new sculpture is a welcome addition despite the presence of dumped cars in the background. The Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery were beautifully presented. The Church of Ireland Church would have been fine were the path weed free.

LITTER CONTROL

The anti-litter group is obviously doing its job since very little litter was noted.

TIDINESS

While much of the village had a neat and tidy appearance the presence of dumping and untidy

abandonment of materials tended to detract. The dumped cars have already been referred to. The open yard opposite Drumlease School is nothing short of an eye sore; surely it could be screened. The River Walk Hostel and environs looked very scruffy. There was a small amount of untidiness along The Line, principally the back areas/yards of the street buildings; nonetheless the standard over the past few years here has been raised amazingly.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There were numerous first class presentations along the Main Street and The Line. The extensive property with cotoneaster cascading over the stone wall was truly beautiful. It was encouraging to see some restoration work in progress together with new development on The Line. The standard of Drumlease Estate however seemed generally poor in comparison. Admittedly there were some good presentations but shabby walls and inconsistent grass cutting were detrimental. On the Manorhamilton Road the well trimmed hedges are preferred to the timber fencing.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The green at the name plate on the Carrick-on-Shannon approach was admired but are the chains really necessary? The front of the Maxol garaged looked reasonably well but the side facing the village unfortunately needed improvement including the removal of debris. The stone walls following the twisting road up to the Old Abbey are beautifully constructed. The Sligo approach (the road which passes Parke's Castle) was admired for its very natural quality - all that is required is to periodically trim the edges on either side. The small triangular green at the junction with a sign to Newtownmanor Church is an improvement. Verges were quite overgrown on the Manorhamilton Road and the poor road surface did not help the impression. The school and yard opposite have already been mentioned but not the unfortunate derelict area at the junction. The Line as also mentioned above was generally excellent. The carpark at the rear of The Breffni Centre was somewhat weedy however. Some clearing of weeds at the base of walls and sweeping was in progress on the main street during adjudication; also road works. Weed control was generally excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Dromahair is of a very picturesque village where the community realise the importance of consistency in terms of design and maintenance.