

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromod**

Ref: **17**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **274**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	38	38
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	23
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	19	19
Residential Areas	30	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>271</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Dromod on a fine June morning. Your village is a really beautiful one and congratulations on your success in the competition to date. The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

As you know all towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term.

### The Built Environment:

The village of Dromod has a fine sense of community where everyone is seeking to make their place a better place, and that is the true spirit of Tidy Towns. You have excellent sponsorship and other support and your co-operation with Leitrim County Council has brought great benefits to the village. Fine low well maintained hedging and attractive stone walls are some of the strong characteristics of the village.

The new Health Board Primary Care building on the Mohill road, just recently finished is a really

beautiful but very modern building. It sits so well into the Mohill side of the village proving that modern and more traditional designs can co-exist. The adjudicator nominated this building for the national Architectural Award in the Tidy Towns Competition. The new Marina is a great facility and will look really well when the landscaping around this area is completed. The Railway Restoration Project is most interesting and the old brick station building is set off by good landscaping. Cox's is another premises that stands out together with the cut stone building used as the Garda Station. Again the landscaping here added to the overall effect. The fact that the Garda Station building is angled to the roadside sets it off perfectly. Very good flower displays were noted at the Brandywell. The adjudicator feels that the front elevation of this building could be improved by changing the lettering style on the front facade, but this is not a criticism of a fine prominently located building.

### **Landscaping:**

There is a lot of excellent landscaping in the village of Dromod and that on the Mohill approach road is especially eye catching. The planting of native trees on the Sligo and Dublin roads is warmly welcomed. The entrance to the Glen Comar housing estate was especially colourful with the attractive landscaping. On the road to the harbour further good mature landscaping was noted. At the road junction the extensive landscaping at the road junction in the area of the Gazebo and Fountain is really impressive. It is a pity that the Gazebo area had so much litter on adjudication day.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The wildlife have settled in well to their new home at the Wildlife Sanctuary area. The viewing platform is a really great idea, but was a little untidy on the day of the adjudicator's visit. The platform itself needs to be swept and long grass was evident along the front of the platform on the grass side. It is a pity that the maintenance of such an interesting area is not of a higher standard.

### **Litter Control:**

It is regrettable but true that the standard of litter control this year has dropped in comparison to that observed by the adjudicator in the 2004 during adjudication. Litter was noted at the Recycling Centre, at Shannon Cove entrance, the harbour grass areas, opposite O'Connors on the Main Street and around the Gazebo. Hopefully control will be improved by the time of adjudication in 2006.

### **Tidiness:**

Your weed growth control programme is working very well and little incidental weed growth was noted in the village centre. At the Shannon Cove entrance a Health Check trailer had not been removed following a puncture. Across the road from the entrance the white car with the 'For Sale' sign looked out of place on the green grass verge and detracted from the overall effect here.

### **Residential Areas:**

You have not lost marks this year because of work associated with the 8 housing development sites now under way in Dromod. However hopefully all builders are incorporating extensive landscaping measures into their new development. Dromod deserves no less. The Shannon Cove area is an interesting one with the various types of housing development, and some of the landscaping here is excellent. At The Waterfront interesting housing design was noted together with good landscaping. However the timber fencing here would be improved by painting.

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

The standard of landscaping on the main approach roads was of a high standard. The Sligo road looked really well but the damaged road sign here needs to be replaced or repaired. Again on the Dublin road good presentation was noted.

The presentation at the Harbour area was disappointing. The grass areas need to be cut frequently and the grass here lacked a lush green effect, and was rather patchy. This is an area where litter was noted.

### **General Impression:**

You have a lovely village well maintained and presented. Hopefully the problems detailed in this report are only temporary difficulties. Well done to everyone who has done such good work to date,

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It was a great pleasure to note the litter free status of Dromod on the day of second adjudication; it appears that your performance under this heading earlier in the judging season was a once off occurrence as you have litter management strategies in place. Other problems noted in first adjudication had also been resolved by the time of our second visit.

The village looked beautiful for second adjudication and was being enjoyed by many visitors; the new duck enclosure was a great attraction; it has been considered for the Wild Life award; don't forget to include wild life details of the old coach route walk. Well done on the new Gazebo, it complements the existing visual amenity of the village centre.

We look forward to next years visit and to reviewing your new work programme.