

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumkeerin**

Ref: **428**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **208**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	31	29
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>199</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Drumkeerin is a very attractive village with wide streets and a great feeling of welcome.

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the very comprehensive Entry Form, detailed map and notes. These were all very helpful on the day of adjudication. It is most encouraging to see the degree of community support that obviously exists for the Tidy Towns concept in Drumkeerin. You are obviously very well organised and you are to be congratulated on what you have achieved to date.

A Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation. 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. You should prepare this in September / October this year for implementation from 2006 onwards. You will find it a great help. Do not set too many objectives for your Committee each year.

### The Built Environment:

The adjudicator looks forward to viewing the village sculpture that has been commissioned. The

theme for this sculpture sounds to be really interesting. There is much building work under way in the village but this does not detract from the excellent level of presentation achieved by many property owners. Quite a number of the buildings have been freshly painted and look really well. The Community Centre and the heritage Centre built of the warm coloured stone sits well into that side of the village. The Catholic Church has a superb position in the landscape and is really well presented. The community development at Rowantree House was noted and the stone used here will fit in well to the overall character of the village. The Garda Station road boundary wall is in need of re-painting. Good presentation was also noted at Lough Allen College.

The problems in regard to the Courthouse are understood, and hopefully an early resolution will be possible. This is a prominent site and hopefully it will eventually be put to good use.

Hopefully work on the few derelict buildings will go ahead without delay.

## **Landscaping:**

Your new work at College View housing estate, on the Dowra road and on the Manorhamilton road all look extremely well. However the graffiti at the Dowra road project should be removed without delay. These projects do a lot to enhance the approach roads on which they are located.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your plans to involve the schools, Youth Club in wildlife development is welcomed as is the project to create a wildlife directory.

In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in the School who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

Involve Schools

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

## **Litter Control:**

In the village centre litter control was generally good. However litter was noted at the bring site on the Dowra road, opposite the old Courthouse and at the National School. You are to be congratulated on the level of litter control that you have achieved, with the above exceptions.

## **Tidiness:**

The undergrounding of ESB cables has been very effective and does much for the overall appearance of the village. It is encouraging that you are hopeful of progress on the issue of the vacant site. On the Dromahair approach road you might consider painting the water pump and making a feature of it.

The steel storage container is rather ugly and detracts from that part of the village, and hopefully it can be removed without delay. Failing that can it be screened from public view.

At the National School the section of the low wall that has been damaged should be repaired.

## **Residential Areas:**

Private houses and housing estates were generally well presented with a good use of colour and many properties with attractive shrubs or flowers. Do remember that road boundary walls need to be painted on a regular basis, not just when the main property is re-painted.

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

The Drumshambo approach road was excellently presented. This is a beautiful approach to the village with a wide road and wide well presented verges. On the Dromahair approach road there is an untidy area at the village sign.

The village signs with the large stone base are quite attractive.

On the main street the new footpaths add to the overall presentation of that area as do the nicely surfaced roads.

## **General Impression:**

Congratulations to the Tidy Towns Committee and the community for all the good work that has been carried out. Take pride in your achievement!