

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumlish**

Ref: **346**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **178**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	
The Built Environment	40	26	
Landscaping	40	24	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	25	
Tidiness	20	12	
Residential Areas	30	18	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	
General Impression	10	6	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>178</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Drumlish is a welcome new entrant to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. The village is located on a busy thoroughfare, the R198 which links Arvagh in Cavan to Longford town and experiences a lot of through traffic. Drumlish is presented to a mixed standard with many fine examples of well presented buildings but too great a number of derelict premises also. It is good to note that the committee was successful at fund-raising locally for the Tidy Towns effort and indeed as in the case of last year for Christmas lights. Thank you for your submission which included a three year plan. This adjudicator's advise is to place less emphasis on flower displays and a greater emphasis on other more important projects. You are referred to your Tidy Towns Handbook for advice on how to conduct a thorough survey of the village and its approach roads and how to put a good plan together with realistic objectives. There are wonderful scenic panoramic views both of the town and countryside on approaching Drumlish by the school and the community hall road and the preservation of these views should be a priority in your development plan. We wish you well in your objective of having a visual amenity feature in the village centre, facilitated by Longford County Council in the not too distant future. You may like to incorporate some of the constructive criticisms noted in this report into your new Tidy Towns plan.

### The Built Environment:

There are a number of well presented buildings in your village centre and some have been considered for an award. The wide main street of Drumlish allows your buildings to present their best face forward and to be admired. The O'Reillys premises was excellent in presentation and its window details were particularly admired. The natural stone and plaster finish of Tiernan Centra looked very well also. Max Fashions also enjoyed an excellent presentation, however the two plastic signs here might be removed. The hanging baskets are a nice touch. Public buildings enjoy good maintenance; the garda station, community hall and the school are commendable but what appears to be a shared car parking area between the latter two could be resurfaced, the boundary walls of the health board premises need to be improved and a commercial premises on the Mohill Road was good to its roadside presentation but its extension to the rear needs to be either painted or planted with a climbing plant. A poor wall was noted near the junction with Main Street and two poorly presented buildings, (one opposite the butchers and another opposite that again) let down this important part of the village centre visually. A large undeveloped site at an important road junction looked poor but metal fencing here suggests it will be developed in the short term future; we anticipate results here next year.

### **Landscaping:**

The stand of mature specimen trees in the church grounds are a valuable part of the heritage of Drumlish and were admired. The expanse of grassed area here is being well maintained and the neat hedgerow complements all. Trees are maturing well on their wide footpath on the main street and the cross memorial located across from the trees is a nice feature. Some tree or shrub planting might be featured inside the boundary wall of the graveyard on the Cloone Road. Flower displays in containers and particularly in hanging baskets were admired for their colour and profusion at several locations around the town. It is important to prioritise permanent planting over flower displays in the form of trees and shrubs to plant for seasonal interest and to choose native species as these are supportive of wildlife.

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

The treatment of the stream at the mill wheel at the Cloone Road end of the village is quite beautiful. We note with interest a planning application here for a nursing home. A stand of mature pine trees were admired in a neat graveyard, however boundary walls here were a little weather stained and could be improved. Gates here were attractive. A second graveyard also featured mature trees. Again you are referred to your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas on possible wildlife projects. Ideally a survey might be undertaken of the town and its environs to identify habitats present and to take necessary protective measures in the event of future developments in the built environment.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was good overall, however some was noted on the main street and some at one of the graveyards. We note from your submission that Saturdays are the designated day for the weekly clean up of the village, we would be interested to know of the type of litter most frequently encountered and of your overall litter management strategy as it is detail such as this than can earn additional marks.

### **Tidiness:**

With so many development sites on-going in the village it would be difficult to maintain a high level of tidiness, however Drumlish does have an overall appearance of tidiness. Derelict buildings are however a problem, particularly outbuildings on the Mohill Road. Some badly weather stained walls on the road through the crossroads on coming into the village centre from the Mohill Road are particularly problematic under this heading. We note the presence of the recycling point in the school car park but dumping was a problem here and you must take whatever steps are necessary to eliminate this completely. Two foot high weeds were noted to a kerb on the Mohill Road. No

doubt with the cessation of construction the work load will not be as great for the committee, do try to keep things as tidy as possible in the interim.

### **Residential Areas:**

A number of dwellings on the link road to the N4 featured no boundary walls, undeveloped gardens and poor roadside areas to their curtilage. This stood in sharp contrast to beautifully presented and grassed roadside areas to boundary walls further in. The Crois Bothar development looked well. Hopefully the two vacant dwellings in the terrace at the Library which still have their sash windows will have these retained upon refurbishment. Some further poor boundary walls were noted in a residential development near the school. There are many sites earmarked for residential development and the challenge for the committee will be to integrate new residents into the social fabric of the town and to bring them on board for the Tidy Towns effort. We wish you well in this respect.

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

Approach roads to Drumlish were overgrown in most cases, however the wildflowers on the verge along the Cavan approach were admired. Nameplates looked well, particularly on the Cavan Road where this was shown to its best with rockery and flowers. The posts of the nameplate on the main road were in need of refurbishment. Several old water pumps were noted in the village and on approach roads which would look beautiful if refurbished. A new footpath is suggested linking the town to the burial grounds on the Cloone Road. The hard shoulder on the main street was in good condition. The church carpark was well surfaced in one section but has yet to be finished completely. The wirescape in the village centre is not too visually obtrusive however the old service poles do not look well and some new attractive lampstandards will hopefully someday replace them. The redundant "shell" post and sign on the footpath should be removed altogether or refurbished.

### **General Impression:**

Drumlish is an attractive village with a wide main street and a handsome stock of buildings and looked well for adjudication. With so much ongoing development it will take a number of years for it to reach its full potential. Thank you for your participation.