

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drum**

Ref: **348**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **170**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	10
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>162</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Drum Tidy Towns Committee very the extremely comprehensive documentation supplied with the entry form. It was all used on adjudication day together with the map and key. Your 3 Year Plan is an excellent document and most detailed. The adjudicator feels sure that you find that document really useful as an aid to keeping your committee focused on priority actions.

### The Built Environment:

The fine trees that envelop the village is on the the strong features of the village of Drum. Despite the difficulties of derelict buildings the village is very attractive in physical terms. The work at the Manse has made a feature out of what would otherwise have been an eyesore. The heritage plaques were in place on adjudication day and it is so important that towns and villages record their history as you are so successfully doing. At the Church of Ireland the road boundary wall here needs to be painted, and at the school and community hall little work appeared to have been done recently on the verge and banks. The older type plaques for the old school and dispensary are extremely interesting and again add to the preservation of local history. At the Post Office the row of buildings here would be enhanced if the apparently plastic lettered sign cold be replaced with a more traditional approach in keeping with the character of the village.

A number of derelict buildings were noted that detract from the overall appearance of the built

environment of your village. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of these buildings pending their removal or restoration. Try and get the owners to agree that they will blank out the window and door openings with heavy waterproof Marine plywood. This should then be painted matt black, and window bars and door panels painted in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective.

### **Landscaping:**

The planting of native trees at the school is highly commended, as is the planting of the ten trees during National Tree week. The landscaping carried out in the village blends perfectly with the natural landscaping in the village. The many tubs hanging baskets and other plant displays bring so much colour to the village that compensates in some way for the unpainted derelict buildings. The grass landscaped areas were excellently presented and the agricultural machinery displays added further splashes of colour. It was so good to see that the grass had been cut away from the top of the roadside kerbing. At the Bunie junction a small landscaped verge area was noted with the large stone and in time this will look even better.

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

You have done excellent work on the wildlife aspect of the competition and the Drum Lake amenity area is highly attractive. Watch for weed growth here in the gravel. The nesting boxes, and bird feeders seemed to be working well and on the day of adjudication the bird feeders were in much demand!

The planting of trees and shrubs that will encourage wildlife as you have done is an excellent approach. The floating nesting and feeding unit was examined and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing it in place.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control on adjudication day was extremely good. Your committee is very active on the issue of litter control and this is reflected in the increased marks that you have achieved this year under that category.

### **Tidiness:**

The two businesses in the village by their nature cannot always be tidy but perhaps some screening or planting of carefully positioned trees would be effective in providing a measure of privacy for the owners of these properties. This would also make a valuable contribution to the work of the Tidy Towns Committee.

### **Residential Areas:**

All private houses were excellently presented. The two storey house at the chicken unit caught the eye with the superb colour choice and immaculate property presentation. Just beyond this property on the Clones another property on the right hand side had also made a great colour choice. It was good to visit a village where so much community spirit was at work demonstrated in part by the way that people maintain their own houses.

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

The overall presentation of all approach roads is of critical importance. It is this that gives the first impression of your town or village. Attractive well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares about how others see them.

Some of your verges had been cut but the cut grass has not been taken away. The result is an

untidy appearance with new grass growth trying to grow through the dead cut grass. Can you make a rule for yourselves and your helpers that all cut grass must be taken away on the day that it is cut. Do remember also that verges will need to be cut on quite a regular basis if you are to achieve a lush green well kept appearance of banks and roadside verges. A tractor and mower will not give the neat well kept appearance that can be achieved by a motor mower.

Do make sure that any old stone walls on approach roads are not in need of repair. Gaps due to collapse can look quite untidy. Fences should be kept in good repair and do cut long grass that may tend to grow up through the timber fencing. Hedging on approach roads needs trimming from time to time but do avoid bird nesting time of the year..

It is important to wash the town / village name signs from time to time and make sure that any poles used for such signs are painted.

Field gates can become a feature of your approach roads. It may be possible for you to get agreement from the relevant landowners that all damaged gates will be replaced, and that all gates will be painted to a common colour scheme.

### **General Impression:**

Drum is a beautiful village that has the potential to do extremely well in the Tidy Towns Competition. Two priority areas should be your approach roads and the derelict properties.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**