

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromod** Ref: **314**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **288**
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/06/2007**
09/08/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	288

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Dromod to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Your adjudicator had not been in Dromod for some years and on arrival was immediately taken aback by the great progress that the village has made in the past few years. Thank you for the comprehensive documentation and the press cuttings which were most useful. Congratulations to Dromod Tidy Towns on being a continuous entrant for nearly 50 years in Tidy Towns. The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with your entry documentation this year. All towns and villages are strongly recommended to have a simple straight forward 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations and agencies in the Dromod area. 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. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that your committee and supporting organisations and agencies intend to carry out each year in Dromod. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4 or 5 key projects are adequate. In November of each year your Tidy Towns Plan should then be advanced by a further year and the year coming to an end can then be dropped from the Plan. With the bye-pass hopefully opening before the end of the year that may give your scope for work that is not possible at the moment so now may be a good time to prepare a 3 year plan for the period 2008 – 2011. Congratulations on the Bronze Medal for your performance in 2006.

The Built Environment:

This is one of the strengths of Dromod. You have managed to preserve some of the old traditional village buildings such as the corrugated iron roofed two storey building on the Main Street alongside the beautiful modern Health Care Centre. The standard of new development appears to be very high. The Railway Station and extended car park were beautifully presented and a credit to Irish Rail management. You referred to the painting of galvanized roofs and this seems to have made a big visual difference in several areas. The new

Railway Station sculpture was much admired and it is indeed a most appropriate them for a village that has seen so much emigration sadness in past years. The Garda Station building is a beautiful older Limestone that must be part of the original village and appears to be well maintained externally. It is great to see that work is underway on the new Golf Course. This will bring great added economic benefit to Dromod.

Landscaping:

Beautiful landscaping is another hallmark of Dromod and it looked so well on adjudication day this year. At The Waterfront the boat used for landscaping purpose is so appropriate and highly effective. Good landscaping was noted a little further away near the Tennis Courts. The many hanging baskets are very colourful and help to emphasis the buildings on which they hang. The landscaped area at the road junction by the Gazebo is of an extremely high standard and had matured extremely well. What is good about this area is that it is not just about plants and shrubs but about local history as well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The provision of the nesting boxes and the planned bridge over the wildlife area are excellent developments. Hopefully by adjudication time next summer the bridge will be underway if not indeed finished. ON adjudication day the wildlife were alive and well at the two Marina areas! Has your committee considered carrying out a wildlife survey of the Dromod area as part of your Tidy owns work?

Litter Control:

Litter control was generally good on adjudication day though some areas disappointed. Litter was noted in some quantity at the Waterfront Marina which was the main problem area. Considering the volume of traffic passing along the Main Street the litter situation here was quite good.

Waste Minimisation:

The leaflet distribution to all houses and businesses was a great initiative to help spread the waste minimisation concept. The pubs and the shop seem to be playing an important role in waste segregation and perhaps this can be extended in the year ahead. The Race Against Waste booklet circulated to all Tidy Towns Committee in 2006 has many ideas on waste reduction that may be of help to your committee.

Tidiness:

Despite all the ongoing development and the many vehicles serving the bye-pass construction project Dromod presented in a very tidy manner on adjudication day. The spraying of weeds twice per year seems to be effective. Congratulations on the standard of tidiness that you have achieved. Some of the entrances areas to construction sides off the main roads were quite untidy on the day.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates that are finished seem to have two things generally in common. The first is the high standard of design, and the second is the standard of finish and associated landscaping. Leitrim County Council Planning Department is to be congratulated on their role in this. It is great to read that developers in Dromod are generous in their sponsorship of Tidy Towns. This does not always happen. Many of the new estates have a lovely open feeling where the housing density is low and this creates a great atmosphere. At The Waterfront the timber fencing needs to be maintained. The majority of the private houses were also excellently presented and in many cases the landscaping complimented the physical building in a very positive way. The two storey corrugated iron house on the Main Street is a beautiful building and the adjudicator noted the treatment for portion of the building that did not seem to be in use. The adjoining two storey stone house also caught the eye. The new landscaping at the estate behind The Brandwell is imaginative but is perhaps a little small in scale for this large area. The adjudicator is of the view that the project lacks a little in overall impact.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads were excellently presented and the lush green verges, sometimes wide verges were impressive. However some verge damage was noted and this is probably associated with the heavy traffic servicing the bye-pass construction. No recent work appears to have been carried out on the Cloonagh approach roads where grass on the verges was quite high.

General Impression:

The adjudicator would like to congratulate you on your great work over so many years and wishes you well in all your Tidy Towns projects for 2008.

Second Round Adjudication:

Dromod is always a pleasure to visit and never fails to impress, and this year was no exception! The adjudicator greatly admired the new Primary Care Centre which was attractively finished in timber, well sited and attractively landscaped. The stainless steel litter bin in this location appeared damaged, however. The attractive Arts and Crafts style house (formerly an ecclesiastical building?) near the crossroads looked marvelous with and beautifully maintained garden to the front. Directional signage to the roadside at this location was very grubby and needed a wash-down. The Antique Shop in its barrel vaulted tin roofed premises was in need of a fresh coat of paint. The attractive modern houses near the water's edge are maturing very nicely - one with a creeper clad balcony area being particularly admired. A little litter was apparent on the Dublin road, but generally the standard in this category was quite good. The Brandywell looked as well as ever, with its colourful displays. The new Railway Crossing memorial statue at the crossroads is a cheerful yet poignant one. The bird sculpture opposite is maturing nicely in its well maintained landscaped space.