

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumkeeran** Ref: **636**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **233**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	233

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome the attractive village of Drumkeeran to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a detailed Entry Form and helpful supporting documentation. Drumkeeran is an interesting village set in rolling drumlin countryside which gives some additional character to the village. The 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was quite interesting and it is recommended that for each project that you identify potential partners and give an estimate of the cost also. The letter to the community about Tidy Towns is a great progressive idea. Your committee of 7 people seems to have good community support and that of the appropriate official agencies.

The Built Environment:

Work on the Playground appeared to be progressing well on adjudication day and this will be a great amenity for the children of the village. Work appeared to be well advanced on the Church of Ireland roof if not in fact completed with the support of the Heritage Council. The Court House is an attractive building externally and a little unusual in design and this makes it even more interesting. The adjudicator notes the community interest in acquiring this building but what is the eventual use that you have in mind? The local heritage study to be conducted by the local students is an excellent project but it is essential that the results of their work form part of a local archive that is accessible to everyone in Drumkeeran. The new wall at College View was noted and also the derelict house that you have cleaned up though you did not identify this property in your Entry Form. The derelict house at Sheena has been beautifully presented and the approach here is grand from a Tidy Towns point of view. At the thatched house the white walls will need to be painted for 2008 and the informational panel nearby was really interesting. The Resource Centre is a great facility for Drumkeeran and the adjudicator can testify to the fact that they make a good salad sandwich and serve excellent coffee! Construction work was under way at the GAA premises and the old shed with the derelict car needs to attract immediate attention as it looked very untidy. The sculpture at the bottom of Sheena caught the eye and an

information panel here about the background to this would give added interest. Again this year the boundary walls and shed beside the Church of Ireland need to be repainted and also the railings together with the shed and steel door. At St. Brigid's School the road boundary wall still needs attention and could be plastered and painted or faced in stone as suggested by last year's adjudicator. If facing in stone do make sure that local stone and traditional stone wall construction methods are used. The gates to the School also need to be painted. This property would be enhanced by the provision of some colourful hanging baskets or window boxes. The Kelly property was for sale at adjudication time. It is recommended that if at all possible the front façade be retained and timber windows used rather than plastic in any future redevelopment of this property. Other properties that caught the eye included Wynne's and Davitt's where the graphics were much admired. It is a pity that this building does not use timber traditional windows and is the projecting sign really essential for business purposes? Overall Davitt's is well presented – congratulations to the owners.

Landscaping:

Various attractive landscaped banks were noted around the village and on approach roads and these are all being well cared for by those involved. For example the small triangular grass area at the bottom of Back Lane is simple but effective. Excellent landscaping was also examined below the houses at the junction of Sheena and the Drumshambo road. The viewing and amenity area provides great views out over the rolling drumlin countryside. Weed growth here needs attention. Your work on the Ellipse was examined and it is suggested that some colour be added to this raised area by appropriate planting. The Lough Allen College grounds are exceptionally well presented and the Embankment area has great potential. However weed and grass growth was noted among the plants and this detracted from the overall effect. Elsewhere tubs and flower boxes added additional colour to Drumkeeran.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife observation study and the planned Natural Trail will be great projects that will help to enhance the local knowledge of the wildlife in the Drumkeeran area. If you can create access to the nearby waterfall this will be a great added amenity for the community and visitors alike.

Litter Control:

The annual clean up day is a great method of focusing the community on making their place a better place for all and the litter patrol ideas seems to be working well. Your litter control mark in 2006 was quite high by national standards. On adjudication day this year some litter was noted at the Bring Bank and on the embankment. At the Bring Bank the damaged signage needs to be repaired and consideration might be given to the painting of the timber fencing in a dark colour.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to see that the schools are still involved in recycling and that waste segregation policies are practiced. The Drama Workshop held again in December 2006 is an excellent way of getting the waste minimisation message across to both children and adults. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Drumkeeran for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in the Drumkeeran community is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. 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:

The Back Lane area was quite untidy in several areas as was the area to the back of the Court House. The Heritage Centre timber signage on approach roads looks rather weathered and should ideally be replaced. Your work on graffiti removal and the removal of the disused lamp-post has improved the village presentation.

Residential Areas:

Generally private and estate houses were well presented and a high level of good landscaping was noted on properties throughout Drumkeeran. The painting of the neat group of houses for the elderly looked well on adjudication day and the landscaping here is good and colourful. At College View the attractive stone embankment with the many Heathers caught the eye while the fencing here would be improved if painted black. Consideration might also be given to the painting of the road boundary wall.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads were in general very well presented with attractive high grassy banks and good roadside verges. Approach road presentation is so important because it gives the first time visitor their first impression of Drumkeeran. Road surfaces are generally excellent and make such a difference in presentation terms.

General Impression:

Well done on the work that you are doing for Drumkeeran and the adjudicator would like to wish you well with your 2008 projects.