

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumkeeran** Ref: **636**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **239**
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Drumkeeran is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in this its 50th anniversary year; thank you for your submission which included a good map and summary notes. We note your work with all sectors of the community both statutory bodies and agencies, schools and business. Well done on your fund-raising activities also. Stone walls and stone-faced buildings are a characteristic feature of Drumkerrin and all are nicely presented. The adjudicator agrees that the village has come a long way since its first year of entry in 1969 and since this adjudicator first visited in the early 1980s, we wish you every success for the future; visit the TidyTowns website at www.tidytowns.ie for resource material on competing.

The Built Environment:

The Rowan Tree premises enjoys a good presentation as does the Frank Davitts premises and the Credit Union premises. The national school itself looks well however its roadside car-parking area has an undeveloped appearance. Well done on your treatment to derelict premises and on work planned for the Court House and Kelly's. The upgrading of boundary walls to the front of the Court House and at Sheena is acknowledged.

Landscaping:

Your landscaping programme might be extended to incorporate the area to the nameplate at the northern entrance to the village. The grounds of Lough Allen College are beautifully landscaped and those at the church, cemetery and the Health Centre were admired also. The entrance from the Carrick On Shannon road enjoyed a high standard of landscaping also. Well done on new flowerbeds, seating and the new drain.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on your links with the school had regarding wildlife projects and we note your plans to improve access to the waterfall and to use wildlife experts as a resource to promote awareness of the value of wildlife. A wild life survey or a bird species count might be considered as a project. It is good to note your awareness of the value of hedgerow for wild life cover; hedgerow should not be cut between the months of February and August to facilitate the nesting season.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control in Drumkeeran was excellent at the time of adjudication well done; we note from your submission voluntary clean-ups involving adults and schoolchildren and regular patrols by workers. Well done also on the talks to schools on litter consciousness and your regular anti-litter notes in the Leitrim Observer is acknowledged. We applaud your commitment to the 'Adopt a Road' programme. Ensure that all litter collected is segregated for recycling, the importance of this cannot be overstated.

Waste Minimisation:

We wish you well in your initiative to encourage the county council to enhance the recycling point and allow the community/committee to adopt it as a project in the future. We note from your submission that you engage in the promotion of Waste Minimisation Awareness to households and business interests. A Waste Audit might be considered at some time in the future covering the entire community. Congratulations to Lough Allen College for their Green Flag status.

Tidiness:

Well done on piping the drain and the creation of the new footpath together with the removal of a service pole; general maintenance of signs and elimination of inappropriate weed growth has not gone un-noticed. An undeveloped site with wire and post fencing near the Sheena estate and junction looks untidy perhaps better enclosure here would rectify the problem, a stonewall or a fast-growing hedgerow might be the answer. Hopefully your plans for the tidying up the back lane will come to fruition in the not-too-distant future.

Residential Areas:

Again well done on the painting of walls, the upgrading of timber fencing and the maintenance of hedges. Weather-stained boundary walls on the Ballyconnell Road might receive on attention and a few underdeveloped gardens were noted here also. Weeding and painting would go a long way to improve the appearance of the Sheena estate. The College View estate features some beautiful gardens. There are many residential developments presented to an excellent standard well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It was a pleasure to note the wirefree aspect of the village centre and the removal of an unwanted pole. Roads, footpaths and verges are generally well maintained and street furniture is nicely presented also, however some litter bins were full. Reference has been made above (and in your submission) to the car-park at the National School, hopefully this will be resurfaced in the short term.

General Impression:

Drumkeeran is an attractive village and in common with most villages in the country is growing at a rapid pace; an important project for committees is to integrate new residents into the life of the community in general and the TidyTowns movement in particular; with this in mind a 'Meet the Neighbours' evenings or series of evenings might be hosted. You are aware of the problem of 'sprawl' and no doubt an eye is being kept on planning permission applications to try to integrate new developments physically into the fabric of the village.