

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Drumkeerin	Ref:	636
County:	Leitrim	Mark:	279
Category:	B	Date(s):	05/06/2014

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	16
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39
TOTAL MARK	450	279

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Drumkeerin is most welcome to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and most useful map. We read with interest your 'Tidy Towns Action Plan' 2012/2016, it is timely now to review progress based on this programme and adjust as required. We read also your 3 year 'Sustainable Waste & Resource Management' idea to which we will refer to later. Thank you also for the series of before and after photographs which certainly tell their own story. Sincere best wishes on the implementation of the 'Road Adoption Scheme'. This is an excellent opportunity and process whereby a wider range of the public in your community can get involved. Many projects have been brought to completion during the current year and clearly based on your surveys and other audits you will continue, to tackle on a phased base, all that needs to be improved. Drumkeerin offers dramatic and charming views from Sheena especially near St. Brigid's National School. You're well made case to the County Council in connection with the absent of footpaths and state of some existing footpaths is noted.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The Sports Centre looked very well while the two buildings of pronounced Dutch design at the Health Centre caught the eye. In common with many towns and villages you must contend with the still vacant reminders of the Celtic Tiger era. The 1828 Church of Ireland building offers wonderful opportunities and we look forward to the success of the 'Rural Social Scheme' here. The School Naomh Bríd looked well as did the Catholic Church on high ground. Lough Allen College featured excellent grounds and the building itself was well presented. The Primary Health Care Centre was neat and orderly and we admired the Post Office. Commercially the Credit Union House in its yellow and white livery was striking. Wynne's (established 1839) is a significant building of high visibility. Lanigans Tyre Centre was orderly while Davits Shoppa was colourful with a pleasant mural.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The novel 'Tree of Liberty' is a striking centre piece in colourful mosaics. The rockery on Dowra Road now complete is maturing pleasantly. We welcomed the seat newly installed at the junction. The Cemetery was well presented and we liked the retaining use made of extensive large stones at the houses opposite the Church. Your on-going efforts of maintaining all the open spaces within the various estates and along approach roads is a huge undertaking and compliments to all involved in its successful implementation. The amenity area and children playground on the Carrick-on-Shannon Road was admired.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Encouraging school children in the national school to maintain a 'nature'scrapbook all helps to focus attention on

many aspects of wildlife preservation and appreciation. For best results bird and wildlife programmes are essentially long term and must necessarily begin with the creation of the essential food chain. This should inform your choice of location together with the type of plants, shrubs and trees planted. It is necessary to use native, berry bearing shrubs for best effect. Take advice from a local member of Birds Ireland and the Wildlife Ranger attached to the Office of Public Works. Creating two new wildlife and nature areas is also an excellent development.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Your 3 year programme makes interesting reading and we will be waiting with interest the results and response of the community to these aspirations in next year's competition. The primary motivation inherent in this category of the competition is to increase awareness both at individual and community level of the need to reduce our use of scarce items. This can best be achieved first of all by measurement of the existing situation. Surveys of household expenditure on food for example have repeatedly indicated that as much as one third of food purchased is never actually consumed. Recent American figures suggest that the figures might be as high as 40%. Clearly savings at these levels at individual household level would be hugely significant. At community level the impact is enormously beneficial. The Recycling Centre was well maintained and we were pleased to note that the 'School Ahead' sign is powered by solar panels.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your work on various derelict and abandoned buildings is to be admired and thank you for the before/after photographs. Individual derelict houses have been well camouflaged where this was appropriate. One of the strong timber traffic barriers at the Catholic Church is broken and others may need additional attention or indeed replacement. The missing cap stones at the lower end of the slip road (L42501) distract considerably from the overall vista and need attention. In general many of the signs notable the information panel on Manorhamilton Road would benefit from simple washing. Litter management was excellent on the day of adjudication and well done to all involved in that success.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The work done by your committee and others in maintaining all the communal grassed areas in estates and on approach roads is a splendid addition to the presentation of the overall community. Individual wrought iron gates have been materially improved from their previously rusty state. Splendid individual houses were encountered on the Manorhamilton Road. Individual houses along Priest's Brae Road and the Carrick-on-Shannon Road contributed greatly to the overall vista.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

We welcome the discussions you are having with the council authorities in connection with the proliferation of signs. We counted no less than 17 signs at the junction of Dowra Road Street and Main Street. Clearly the law of diminishing returns will apply to this excessive display and some form of rationalising is surely possible and feasible. In general as in many centres a recommendation is to do an audit of all signs with a view to identifying those which require washing or more extensive remedial attention. Village name plates generally looked well - a number enhanced by flowerbeds. Road surfaces as such did not cause any concern and were in general maintained to an acceptable standard.