

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumshanbo** Ref: **712**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **282**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	44
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
TOTAL MARK	450	282

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Drumshanbo is welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your completed entry form together with the introduction setting forth information, pictures and a brief history of your group, your vision for the town and your objectives. Thank you especially for the annotated map which was most useful on the day of adjudication.

Drumshanbo is a town with a rich history much of it readable from the general layout and surviving structures and buildings. We welcomed the innovative 'Glimpse from the Past' exhibition in the small shop while the small scale Garda Station in a terrace of houses caught the eye. Great credit is due to individual householders for their splendid gardens and mature trees and even well shaped shrubs. Well done on the innovative and obviously very successful free Christmas Tea Party. Good to know you plan this as an annual event. The various plaques and signs throughout the town add greatly to the interest of the walk around. The excitement of identifying the rare orchid "Irish Lady's Tresses" is well founded. It is to be hoped that its presents will add a further compelling reason to visit Drumshanbo.

Sadly like all too many villages and towns it has its reminder of the visit of the Celtic Tiger.

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

Lough Allen Resort and Hotel is an imposing structure and we admired particularly the entrance but wondered why there are three flag poles but no flags flying on the day of adjudication. Compliments to the V.E.C displaying proudly its Green Flag. The Fire Station looked very well while the NCYCS Café caught the eye as did the aptly named "Mutt Magic" grooming with care. The 1974 St. Patricks National School was very well presented. It is a pleasure to note the number of new premises that opened during the year in addition to the Library and the Dristernan Houses. The economically significant Food Hub was well presented and continues to thrive.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The town is well served by amenities and facilities and very largely all of these have been presented to a very high order. We liked the landscaping, creating grass on approach roads. The various mementos of the now famous An Tóstal began in 1953 and uniquely in Drumshanbo still running are appropriate. Your many timber flowerboxes collectively provide a good display. The Outdoor Swimming Pool and amenity area were inviting. The Tennis Courts were equally presented to a high order. Well done on the presentation of the Sean McGettigan Park. At a different level the well positioned seats on R208 and the 'Welcome to Drumshanbo' sign were noted with approval. The High Street planters were looking pristine following their repainting.

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

The wild garden on Baker Hill is an important element in establishing the essential food chain on which birdlife necessarily depends. The maturing of the apple tree grove on the Sligo Road will be watched with interest. Your well researched plans, the product of detailed discussions with Irish Parks and Wildlife Range, Ecologist and Inland Waterways helped to ensure the development of your wildlife habitats projects will be well founded and appropriately sited. The proximity of the River Shannon and the river which meander through the town offer considerable scope in this regard. Do not over look the opportunities presented by small incidental areas. The progress on your major Riverside Amenity is noted and compliments to the steering group who have not been deterred by the legal and other difficulties that have extended the timescale associated with this imaginative and sizable project.

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

The Cottage Restaurant presentation on 'Shop Smart Cook Smart' was an innovative approach to draw attention to the extent of food while purchased is never actually consumed. In terms of household budgets food surplus to requirement which is subsequently dumped has emerged as one of the biggest single factors. Perhaps 30% of bought food remains unconsumed. Survey forms are available which helps to underscore the saving that can be achieved by households. Drawing attention to our use of scarce resources, light, heat, energy and transport can have considerable additional beneficial savings for individual household and for the community at large. Please continue to draw attention to these important issues of resource management. The newly painted Recycling Bank area on the Dowra Road was noted with approval.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Tidiness and litter control have this year been amalgamated in this one category to reflex the close link between them. Litter control was excellent throughout the centre and there was no material falling from grace noted anywhere during the day of adjudication. As a method of motivating greater numbers participating, have you tried taking part in the An Taisce Spring Clean-up Day. The timing and the profile of this event has been known in many centres to generate additional enthusiastic participants in your activities. Another excellent technique is to let it be known in advance that the Tidy Towns Group will be attending a specific area on a certain evening and inviting the residents there to join in. Do an inventory or audit of all the signs, directional and informational, to identify those that need to be simply washed or others that need significant refurbishment. The very large cattle mart site would be enhanced by the introduction of appropriate hedging inside its fencing. The Business Park was very well presented while the Drumshanbo Enterprise Company entrance area leaves considerable room for improvement. On the day of adjudication all roads inspected were pleasantly swept which gave an agreeable air of neatness to the town. Additional signage reminding individuals of the role they can play.

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

There are many positive new developments under this category. Hillcrest Grove and Ashdale already taken in hand by Leitrim Co. Co. and Corryard Wood is likely to follow shortly. The new play area and the wildlife and bird enhancing developments at Dristerna Estate are applauded.

The fine new bridge now with enhanced provision for pedestrians was very much admired at Hilly Road. The many excellent individual houses above the V.E.C School were noted with approval as were the private houses on Ballyclare Road. Orayard Wood was well presented as was Orchard Manor. The progress of the community composting area with its three bins in Naomh Patrick will be watched with interest.

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

The bridge over the canal is the clear cut, identifiable entry to the town proper. Roads play an important part in the presentation of Drumshanbo; they are in effect your front window. The important Sligo Road with its fine approach over the canal is a delightful entrance to the town; the Leitrim Way, passing the famine cemetery and entering via Convent Avenue is a particularly important and well presented approach. A number of the signs would benefit from simply washing and an audit of them all early in the spring is suggested. Could this be a project which might be 'subcontracted' out to a suitable group? Drumshanbo, richly endowed by geography and recent history is a town that has a great deal to offer and clearly is in good hands.