

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumsna**

Ref: **428**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **293**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **07/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	29
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34
TOTAL MARK	450	293

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Drumsna, a most attractive village, is warmly welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form and the schedule of supporting documentation you outlined. The work involved in the playground and Garden of Remembrance development plan was clearly a major undertaking and you are wished success with the application for the necessary funding. Clearly the effort and time involved in the compilation and creation of this development plan necessarily prevented the simultaneous creation of the ongoing Tidy Towns programme. Thank you for the litter management plan 2014.

The village is blessed with two natural entry points, the river bridge and the N4 junction. Well done on the 'Pride of Place Award' 2007. New build houses all seemed to be occupied and fit in very well with the existing streetscape. We admired the broad, wide street featuring a good stand of trees on either side. We admired the splendid information boards, the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Memorial and the plaque providing details of the 1795 Battle of Drumsna Bridge. All contributed to an agreeable sense of a village aware of its historic past while looking to its future with optimism.

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

A significant element of the built environment is the delightful Shannon River Bridge. Built of traditional stone, its very narrowness is evocative of past times. The splendid community Resource Centre of significant size was very well presented. The new seating provided here is a fine addition. The imposing Catholic Church continues to look very well. The splendid wide streets with many attractive dwellings and properties collectively make a fine impact notable on Quay Street.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The many hanging baskets on the bridge enhance this already significant element still future. The fine sculpture of the swimmer in its suitable setting was admired. The presentation of the Thomas Hazel Clarke and Robert Strawbridge amalgamated pleasant design with interesting historical information. The colourful garden centre was admired. It is necessary to take professional advice in connection with the presence and growth of invasive species. Left unchecked these can increasingly and speedily overwhelm surrounding vegetation. The whimsical painted stone houses in the Butterfly Garden are certainly unusual and the question is how best to use the undoubted skill of their creator.

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

The insect and wildlife run on the Main Street was noted with approval. The Riverside Park was excellent but the sign does do need to be refurbished. The charming Butterfly Garden is certainly a pleasant addition enhanced by the unusually painted stones. We love the "Don't Shoot Us We Are Friendly" duck sign. We admired the fine wildlife area at the far end of the harbour mooring area. The well sited and maintained information signage in connection with wildlife and natural amenity areas was admired.

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

Your entry form makes clear that Drumsna is approaching resource management in an appropriate multi-faceted way. The recycling of books and unwanted gifts at the bongo session is all part of the same process. Developing your own composting material again is reducing the financial draw of maintaining your flowers, shrubs and grassed areas. One area not mentioned was that of prevention of food waste. This issue has become "front and centre" among many groups. Explore with the schools the staging of a survey at household level; many appropriate forms are available from the local authority and others to facilitate this. Very often the findings are a surprise indeed a jolt for individual householders who are confronted with the extent of food purchased but not consumed.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Because of their close connectivity both tidiness and litter control are now amalgamated in the one category. Drumsna is a delightfully neat and orderly centre which was a joy to visit. Power washing the footpaths certainly helped the area which looked very well on the day of adjudication. We are glad to learn that you are "in the queue" for the removal of overhead cabling in time.

Litter management generally throughout the centre was very much in evidence. Sadly the same cannot be said about the harbour area which was very much below par on the day of adjudication. The extent of litter there would have to be described by this adjudicator as the worst example he has seen in many a year. There were no litter bins on view and perhaps this would assist matters given that suitable arrangements can be made for the servicing of same.

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

The limited housing stock was neat and orderly, green areas being suitable maintained notable in Belmont Heights. Oak Meadow still has some distance to go to achieve the same level of presentation but was free on litter during our visit. The enthusiastic involvement of the residents of the various housing estates themselves will make for an overall pleasing success in this category.

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

The approach to the village from the N4 is a joy as the grass was suitable but not excessively cut back from the junction inwards and we admired the many low level shrubs on this charming approach. The wonderful wide main street leading to the historic river bridge was most imposing and impressive. This was an excellent prelude to what proved to be a delightful centre. Well done to all involved.