

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumkeerin** Ref: **636**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **293**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>293</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Drumkeerin Tidy Towns Committee is indeed welcome to the 2016 competition. We welcome the new officers of the Tidy Towns committee and wish them good luck in their work. We were delighted to hear you get such a positive response from local people in terms of voluntary work. The workers that you have under the RSS scheme, Job Initiative and TUS must be very useful in your work. We were pleased to hear that Leitrim County Council also give you support and organise seminars. You also have close connections with an Taisce, National Parks and the Wildlife Ranger and receive local sponsorship, which is all to the good. You communicate to the local community via both the website and more traditional means. We were pleased to hear you have a close relationship with the schools in relation to the Green Schools projects, litter control and waste management. It was good to hear that the transition year students have helped in your work in relation to litter control, tree planting and also forming part of your committee. The involvement of the local Youth Club is also commendable. We are delighted to hear you have been partaking in the competition since 1969 and have found it beneficial in improving the appearance of the village. Many thanks for your clear map which was most useful on the day. Your photographs give a clear impression of the work you have done.

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

Work to the Garda station was impressive, as was removal of a growth from the old Church of Ireland school. We look forward to seeing the restoration work to the interior of this building completed. You appear to have received permission to work on several properties on the Main Street of the town. The use of unoccupied buildings for advertising of local festivals is a good idea. However, the presentation of buildings within the town was somewhat inconsistent on that day-some were very fresh and some looked a little neglected. The Old Courthouse Youth Club project sounds most interesting – have you any further information on this? Do ensure that the render is not removed from traditional vernacular facades as this can be a problem in relation to both water penetration and is incorrect from a conservation point of view. The old National School looked well, as did the modern St. Brigid's national school and the old stone Church of Ireland opposite. Forde's Inn and the Rowan tree were admired. Kelly's is a fine traditional shopfront. There were quite a number of empty premises along the main streets of the village. The stone church on the hill looks quite magnificent. There were a few weeds to the boundary wall of the graveyard. Lough Allen College and its grounds look quite magnificent. There was a fine unusual hall building in an unusual Arts and Crafts style on the Main Street which was greatly admired.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your work in relation to the French Soldiers grave, Tree of Liberty 1798 monument with its mosaic and the Church of Ireland old school will certainly pay dividends in years to come. The planting of native trees along the Dowra

road is commendable, as is the development of a site and planting shrubs in this location. The planting of flower boxes wall opposite Cosy Corner is also commendable. Your work to open spaces and rockeries in terms of maintenance is laudable. Good luck in the Leitrim County Council Floral Pride competition. The relatively new playground on a grassy bank with marvellous views on the Drumshanbo side of the village was greatly admired. Indeed the grassy banks and relatively new trees and more mature trees on the opposite side of the road were also admired. This whole area incorporates an amenity area with a wonderful sculpture of birds in a nest. The planted flowerbed on a grassy verge closer to the village on this road was also greatly admired. The raised beds and seating in the vicinity of the Wynne's pub was greatly admired. The unusual Tree of Liberty mosaic monument in the vicinity of the Miner's Way was admired with its attractive associated landscaping.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:**

We were pleased to hear that pupils from Lough Allen college assisted in the planting of native trees. You also have been involved with the National Schools in relation to the Green Flag initiative which is commendable. We were pleased to hear of your entering of the Pollinator Award Programme and the natural wildlife areas on the Dowra Road, Sheena and Carrick on Shannon roads, and to the embankment at the rear of the Enterprise units on the Manorhamilton Road. The involvement of the local wildlife ranger in relation to giving talks on the importance of pollination is commendable. Hopefully your work in relation to encouraging the local community to get more involved in relation to this category will pay dividends.

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

We were pleased to hear of the good work done by local businesses in relation to this category of the competition. Congratulations to the Breffni Stores and Clare's Butchers. Congratulations are also due to the Lough Allen College students for their innovative planter boxes created from recycled timber. We were pleased to hear you are participating in the Leitrim County Council's Keep Cup Campaign. This certainly seems very popular throughout the Leitrim participant centres in this year's competition. Your involvement with the current Green School project has been mentioned elsewhere in this report. We were also pleased to hear you speak to the local schools regarding segregation of rubbish. We were also pleased to hear that Lough Allen College supply flower seeds from their polytunnel for your work. Your good work in regard to food waste was also noted.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

We were pleased to hear that you take part in the very successful Adopt a Road Scheme. Congratulations on your litter plan which you included with your application form. Well done for the painting of the street litter bins. The segregation of litter is commendable. We were delighted to hear of Lough Allen College's Transition Year students and the local Youth Club's contribution to this category of the competition. Your work with the National Schools has been mentioned elsewhere in this report. A tidiness audit is a good idea. It helps to focus the mind on what areas need to be dealt with. Getting the permission of owners to work on their properties is always a good idea. The use of unsightly areas in your Floral Pride campaign is an excellent idea, as it solves a potential problem area by creating something attractive. We were glad to hear that the derelict building adjacent to the GAA carpark had been purchased and will be used for something useful. Work to the old Church of Ireland and the Garda Station are commendable. Discourage advertising hoardings and flyposting especially when these events are finished. They give roadsides a very cluttered appearance.

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

We were pleased to hear of your work in relation to Sheena housing estate and its boundary walls. It certainly seemed to have paid off as it looked very well on the day. Assistance proffered to the elderly in relation to their gardens is a marvellous idea. The estate on the Manorhamilton Road was admired for its landscaping which will add greatly to its attractive appearance. Weeds, unfortunately, were noted at kerbsides. An attractive house and garden was noted opposite.

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

The new footpath at Sheena was another good initiative. The painting of street furniture, tubs, flower boxes and litter bins is commendable. We note your work in relation to the decluttering of the signage at the Carrick Road/Sheena Road junction and wish you luck in this regard. It will certainly make a huge difference in terms of simplifying in its presentation. We were pleased to hear of the repairing of fences following the car accident. The power washing of walls is commendable. We were pleased to hear that you had tidied alleyways. The selection of abandoned sites for the Floral Pride competition is a very good idea. The Drumshanbo road looked fine on the day. Some weeds were noted on the Manorhamilton Road at kerbsides. The verges also seemed somewhat rough – perhaps this is intended as your wildlife area? It's important that wildlife areas look as if they are intended as such, and don't look as if they are areas that have just been neglected. Directional signage for Drumshanbo in the vicinity of Kelly's appeared quite grubby. Directional signage throughout the village was, unfortunately a little neglected on the day.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

You would have appeared to have a good level of commitment from many different strands of the local community in terms of support. However, the presentation of buildings within the town was somewhat inconsistent on that day. Despite this the village performed well this year.

