

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromahair** Ref: **673**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **286**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **05/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>286</b>

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

Dromahair is very welcome to the competition and thank you for your completed application form and annotated map. We read with interest your document "Actions to be completed in 2014" and also your ongoing 5 year programme up to 2018. These are excellent documents which help to clarify your objectives year by year. This was the first visit by this adjudicator and he richly enjoyed the experience. You have many splendid attributes particularly noteworthy is the fine mature trees on many approach roads. The Abbey Manor Hotel is indeed a sad sight and one hopes some solution may be found in the not to distant future. In the meantime well done on the manner it is being presented. In common with many centres you too have substantial number of houses in newly built estates awaiting occupiers. As arguable your most significant historic site, Cleevalea Abbey is not immediately apparent to the passing motorist. A priority might be to improve the access from the main street and enhances somewhat the informational and especially the directional signage from this location.

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

Dromahair has quite an inventory of interesting historic buildings and largely these are being well presented. They Church of Ireland look splendid although there was some spoil on the pathways. The surrounding wall is a delight. We admired the two flags on the Drumlease School inclusive of the green flag. The Old Parochial House looked very well while the small scale Library was a delight. St. Patricks Catholic Church (1889) is an imposing building. What appeared to be some sort of an aerial at the east end may no longer be required. If so it could, with advantage, be removed. Pride of Place goes of course to your superb Abbey; the access across the river and through the wood is a positive joy and deserves to be much more prominently highlighted. The Post Office looked well while commercial premises The Blue Devon Bar, Stanford Restaurant and the Unisex Hair Saloon were among many buildings that caught the eye.

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

You have been most energetic and successful on replacing damage, occasioned by the storms, on the sapling on Manorhamilton approach road. Similar success was noted at the Stone Bridge Estate. The raised shrub bed opposite the District Engineers Office was admire while individual houses on Market Street featured splendid gardens and mature trees. The 'Seize the Day' sculpture (Round tree) was admired. Pride of Place under this category goes of course to your splendid success in securing the new playground and nature and exercise walk in the park. Congratulations to all involved in what must have been a major undertaken. The purchase of your own poly tunnel is a far seeing development which will reap fruits (no pun intended) for many years. Well done on the innovative "Donate A Plant Scheme" which again offers an opportunity to and invites the wider community to be involved in your on going success.

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

The timing of your bat walk last November was inspired and it is good to learn of its success. Continually raising these issues with the residential associations and others is a splendid way to enhance awareness of and an appreciation for the nature that surrounds us. The river walk to the Abbey is one of the most delightful facilities we have come across for many a day. The stand of tall trees within which the call of many birds mixes, mingles and enriches the constant babbling of the nearby river tumbling over the rocks offers a very special moment. This is an enchanting area. One word of caution in connection with the rhododendrons; these have a frightening capacity to proliferate and will over time dominate all other vegetation to an increasingly unsustainable level.

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

This category is chiefly focused on drawing attention to the need to reduce our use of scarce resources especially of water, energy and power. The priority is to draw attention to these issues and one of the most effective ways of achieving this is the use of household surveys. Having the experience of a household survey focusing on the electronic waste items in the average home you might, with advantage, build on this by using one of the many survey forms available focusing on food purchase versus consumption (most people are appalled by the results revealed), avoidable water use and the use of energy saving bulbs and appliances. The local authority will have many notes and advice to aid you in this task.

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

May we recommend an audit of all road signs, directional and especially information panels to check for their current need of washing or more fundamental repairs? With the sole honourable exception of the Lough Gill Cycle Loop all the signs around O'Rourke's Chair badly need attention in this regard. Litter management is of a very high order throughout your town and well done on your regular litter picks during the year. It is good to know that your efforts are receiving practical support from Leitrim Co. Co. who provided the skip for your Spring Cleanup. We were unsure if the small Garda Station is still active as there was some weeds outside which might suggest it has been closed.

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

It is encouraging too note that the residents themselves are taking an active interest and arranging their own weekly cleanup which certainly has improved matters. Garrán Na Foraoise was well laid out and the communal grassed areas were well presented. There is excellent planting outside the entrance area. Drumlease Estate shows an enhanced presentation and well done to all involved. Clearly the ideal is to support the creation and activities of local resident groups in the better presentation of their respective estates.

Sadly in common with many villages and towns in County Leitrim the Celtic Tiger has left its unwanted "visiting card" in your village also. While we have noted the situation we have been careful that it does not impact adversely on your marks under this heading as clearly the solution to this problem is not one that can appropriately be laid at your door.

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

Compliments on the manner to which you are working to soften the extent of the hard landscaping on Main Street. We admired the good signage for the tour D'humbert Drive and the splendid sign at the River Bonnet. Your 'Welcome to Dromahair' signs were most attractive and well presented. The flowerbeds on various approach roads and at the junction were admired.