

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromahair** Ref: **673**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **298**
Category: **C** Date(s): **17/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	46	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	41	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	293	298

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Dromahair Development Association and Tidy Towns is indeed welcome to the 2016 competition. It is a number of years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting your town and a lot of changes had taken place in the meantime. We were delighted to hear that you work well together and are pleased with your efforts. It was good to hear that you have a positive response from the local community. We were pleased to hear that you have met with members of the local business community in order to further your requirements in relation to your work. Many thanks for your five year work plan. It is good that you are working with the local housing estates. Your fundraising with Lough Gill Drama Group sounded very interesting. Your weekly cleanups are commendable. We were sorry to hear of your loss of your numbers in relation to your litter patrols. Hopefully these will increase in the not too distant future. Your work in relation to the local heritage is commendable particularly regarding the planned walking route and the photographic exhibition. We look forward to seeing the Town Trail come to fruition in 2017. You would appear to have a good working relationship with local statutory bodies, local businesses, local clubs and orga

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

There is quite a variety of materials forming the façades of the buildings of Main Street. For the most part these looked extremely well but there were quite a few empty and abandoned properties including the old hotel in its prominent location. Your work in relation to raised beds and stonework is commendable. We noted your work at the tree stump at the Parke's Castle approach road. Your work in relation to the redevelopment of the stone cottages to incorporate various facilities is to your credit. We also look forward to your work at the footpath to the Community Park and hope that the funding will be forthcoming in the not too distant future. Your work to the former Garda Station had yet to take place – it looked a little neglected on the day. The Blue Devon looked most attractive as did the Village Tea Rooms-it looks like an attractive spot to stop and relax for a while. The Post Office looked quite fresh on the day. Ann's Cutting Corner is an attractive traditional shopfront. The view to the fine stone church was admired in its beautiful location. Don't forget gable walls when considering overall presentation, as these can look all too evident as one walks along the street. The Church of Ireland is most attractive with its beautifully maintained grounds and churchyard.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

We look forward to seeing your Sensory Garden at Rock Valley in years to come and hope that you can get the go-ahead from the owner. Congratulations on your three year plan to eradicate Japanese Knotweed. This is a problem throughout the country. The planting of wildflowers at the Parke's Castle approach at the treatment plant looked most attractive – especially the Foxgloves! Good luck with your efforts to improvements at the area engineer's office. We hope that approval will be forthcoming in the not too distant future. We were pleased to hear

that your investment in the tunnel is paying dividends and that the garden classes are a success. The inclusion of a pollinator section is a wonderful idea and well done to Jamie Murray for donating his winnings! Floral displays and information boards were generally well maintained throughout the town. The playground and park were well maintained and in use on the day. They were some lovely planted beds by Stone Bridge estate.

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

Your walks and talks with the Wildlife Ranger throughout the autumn through to summer next year is a wonderful idea and will hopefully prove extremely educational. Congratulations on building up your stock of bird boxes. We were delighted to hear they have 90% occupancy! The Butterfly boxes in the Community Park are another wonderful idea hopefully they will be occupied soon. Congratulations on your participation in the Biodiversity Walk in Manorhamilton. It certainly sounded most worthwhile.

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

Congratulations on your work in relation to the use of water butts for gardening and farming. Your research in relation to car washing without water sounds very interesting. Good luck with your textile recycling and upcycling fundraiser. Your information evenings last winter sounded like worthwhile events.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your power washing of boundary walls – this seems to have proved very effective. The Adopt a Road policy has also proved effective. Well done on your participation in Leitrim County Council's Keep Cup Campaign. We were sorry to hear of your difficulties in relation to derelict properties and hopefully this will be resolved in the not too distant future. Have you contacted the County Council in this regard? The Abbey Manor Hotel has been mentioned elsewhere in this report and looks unfortunate in its prominent location. We hope that the Garda Station is handed over to the community group as soon as possible in order to use it for your boxing club. Congratulations on the work to the gate and signage at Breffni Cottages.

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

We were disappointed to read of the poor level of support for your Tidy Estates competition. These are normally quite popular and effective throughout the country. Hopefully, as you say, you will get better weather and increased interest this year. The housing development at the Manorhamilton side of the village looked very well with its attractive stone walling and tree planting. The derelict cottage in the vicinity of the Catholic church looked a little unfortunate. The garden of the Parochial House opposite looked quite magnificent. A charming cottage with a marvellous garden was admired on the Sligo Road.

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

Your projects in relation to various projects have been mentioned elsewhere in this report such as has the wildflower bed at the sewage treatment plant and the footpath at the Community Park. We were delighted to hear that Leitrim county council are to resurface roads and provide litter bins for Main Street. We noted the milestones and they look most attractive in their numerous locations. Congratulations on their retention. The Manorhamilton road looked well, with its kerbing and new footpath. The verges and trees were well maintained. The planting at signage at the junction on this side of the town looked very well. All of these aspects combined with the lovely stone bridge make it an attractive entrance into the town. The planted beds on this side of the town were also admired. The wonderful overhanging mature trees and watercourse to the side on the Sligo approach make it an attractive one into the town.

Concluding Remarks:

Dromahair is a very interesting town with some fine architectural features and well maintained buildings. Unfortunately, there are a number of empty properties which will hopefully will be re-occupied and restored in the not too distant future.