

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromore West** Ref: **1520**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **257**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	31	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	23	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>257</b>

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

A very well composed entry form with an easily read map and intriguing 'Golden Mile' chart that demonstrates the keen attention you are giving to the wider neighbourhood. Interesting to learn that this is your first year to engage with the school – more on this below. Also very interesting to see from your Action Plan that almost all targets have been met – this is unusual, as many committees do not give themselves enough time to fulfil objectives. Thank you for pictures, especially those of projects of which we would otherwise be unaware – this adjudicator calls them 'invisible' projects and they are just as important as the obviously visible, often more so. Support from both official and business concerns is at a high level. Your attitude to young people and new residents is exemplary.

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

Much work has been done on the improvements to street structures, particularly business premises. Dromore West is not a 'pretty' village in the accepted sense but it is rapidly becoming a very tidy one. (This adjudicator would normally take exception to a major filling-station sited in a village centre and not 'fitting in' with the rest of the streetscape but there is no doubt that this one is very well groomed.) The highly discreet blueish-grey Funeral Centre is a first class example of what one would wish to see; ditto the Health premises across the road. The Church in its splendidly kept churchyard caught the attention. The Community Centre is also very well kept within its fine sports grounds. The Mill is a most attractive, if ruinous, structure that has some of its original lattice windows still in place: you are right to give its future much consideration because, with its picturesque surroundings, it is the most distinguished building in the village; expense for any renovation would be immense but well worth research. The other distinguished older building is the church on the Sligo road with its imposing landmark tower seen for quite a distance – not within the village yet within the Golden Mile radius.

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

It is very good that you have the advice of the local plant nursery and a resident horticulturalist – this association should be gratefully nurtured. The increased planting of perennials is applauded though colourful annuals also have their place. Planting in the village centre at Costcutter was admired. Bedding on the approach roads is one of the factors that gives a good first impression. Tubs and window boxes were favourable noted. The hilltop cemetery is very well looked after. It is good to read that you plant bulbs for spring showing. Some tree specialists do not approve of floral planting round the boles of trees: discuss this with your experts.

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

The river, waterfall and tree-lined surroundings of the bridge immediately connect the village with the natural

environment. The riverside walk makes this accessible for those seeking calmly to recreate themselves. Your job in seeing that nature is appreciated and rewarded is enormously admired. Judging by your photographs the bat box project at the summer camp was much enjoyed: it will be interesting to know if the boxes have been occupied, also the bird boxes and, if so, by what species – an inventory should be kept. Well done to the Men's Shed for creating the bat boxes. The pollination project is most impressive. An illustrated wild life interpretive board was not seen – perhaps the adjudicator did not walk far enough.

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

It was heartening to read of activities at the school and the summer camp. Green flags were not seen at the school but that does not mean they were not awarded. In almost all communities where the schools take part in green flag projects the understanding of this comparatively new category is far in advance of places where it is not. The children bring home and spread their knowledge. It was good to note their gardening project. Composting is in hand. Congratulations to the pupils, teachers and parents. You are urged to keep up your connection with the school. Your organisation of talks on food waste are applauded. You may find this mark comparatively low but the average is still only 17 and you are clearly on your way to a fuller comprehension and motivation to further action. The bring bank is accessible and was tidy on the date of the visit.

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

There is a site on the right as you come from Easkey that requires attention and the same may be said for one of the left nearer the village and also the site of the former Presbyterian church; you will be all too aware of these. The unfinished development said to be controversial near the major junction appears to have been partially improved. Well done on the improvement of other derelictions. Unfinished development at Fair Green needs remedial work. The boundary wall of the Community Centre on the Easkey side could do with freshening up with paint. Thank you for your list of improvements made under this heading. It is very good to read of the way your people have taken on the task of beach cleaning, a selfless task yet morally rewarding: good luck for your plans to set up a Coastal Care scheme. Congratulations to those who undertake litter patrols – no easy job on such a busy highway. The naming of categories will be under review later this year: this adjudicator is proposing that 'Litter Control' and general 'Tidiness' be separated because in the case of a centre where litter is almost completely absent, as here, the mark can be reduced by other kinds of – sometimes long-term – untidiness.

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

Traditional residences on the village street are generally well presented. Many fine homes were seen on the main roads and on the cemetery road, and several charming cottages with delightful gardens. De Valera Park is a pleasant circular estate with attractive houses with steep roofs and dormers, notable for individual colour schemes. Fair Green has excellent shrub planting but kerbside weed was seen and this was also the case at Mill View; each householder should be responsible for the immediate frontage – removal or prevention of weed at each house is only a ten-minute task ('with broken dinner knives' as the poet said) every couple of months! Mill View would benefit from tree and shrub planting. It is good to read that name signs are proposed. Residents' Associations can achieve much.

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

Very good surfaces and markings were noted on the main road. First class wooden palings were seen. Hedge cutting was excellent. All this gives a very positive impression. The general thinking now is that ivy has been demonised in the past and so ivy was mercilessly attacked: but its berries provide food for birds and shelter in winter for all kinds of creatures: except where there is definite danger to masonry ivy should be left.

### **Concluding Remarks:**