

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumcliffe Rathcormac** Ref: **2085**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **283**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>283</b>

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

For a village of under 200 inhabitants Drumcliffe-Rathcormac has produced a most remarkable set of documents notable for their comprehensiveness – and, indeed, sophistication – that provided fascinating reading to the adjudicator prior to the all-too-short visit. The two centres propose, encompass and solve challenges rarely, if ever, encountered in such profusion in small communities elsewhere. Drumcliffe is (largely) of archaeological, environmental and literary consequence, the tourism element of the latter managed with truly splendid spirit and flair; Rathcormac, also of archaeological and environmental significance, is (largely) residential and educational. We treat them here as one. Thank you for your completed entry form and its appendices, including the diagrammatic map which was not always helpful in locating sites. In future years can you please reduce some of the information from essay form to basic – e.g. bullet – points. You are exceptionally well supported by private and official organisations, demonstrating their confidence in your work. Cartron Centra deserves special commendation. Your engagement with the school is admirable, particularly in relation to ‘Green Flag’ initiatives. It is encouraging to read that you welcome newcomers to the neighbourhood. Thank you too for enclosing documents that disclose your widespread interests and actions, among them the Built Heritage Survey, the photographic inventory of sites of heritage importance, your well organised Litter Plan and the Cos Cos Green Policy. Photographs of events and activities were appreciated. The Action Plan shows how well you are keeping up with projects proposed in 2014. Marking is based on existing and completed projects rather than on those that are uncompleted or at the proposal stage.

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

Of its nature there is very little ‘streetscape’ though Rathcormac has an increasingly villagey feeling. The RC church is a particularly handsome building of its period, containing two superb stained glass windows. The external sculpture group was admired. Scoil Cholm Chille is very smart and well kept. Drumcliffe church with its internationally renowned landmark tower and compact interior containing many fine pieces of memorial sculpture, is equally well kept, which is a remarkable feat considering the numbers visiting. The shop and its staff also manage to cope with the crowds with efficiency and good humour. An Teach Bán was admired and also a cottage restoration, as well as the ‘ancient cross’, the base of the round tower, and the poignant ‘Aedh wishes for the cloths of heaven’ sculpture. The busy Branley’s Yard and Davis’ Restaurant suggest how lucky it is that ‘touristy’ outlets of a less well appointed nature have not sprung up; today there is little chance of such achieving planning permission.

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

Gardens and bedding surrounding Rathcormac church and school are expertly planted and maintained and add

considerably to the charm of this area. The 'welcoming' planting on the Sligo and Bundoran roads do just that. The Drumcliffe rose garden is a delight; it is interesting to read that you are planning to increase the rose garden by two more. Thank you for the information that hundreds of bulbs have been planted for spring showing, and also thank you for pointing out other activities of which the judges would be unaware. Young trees were noted in a number of places as well as those marked on the map. Mature trees next to President McAleese's tree need severe trimming as they are interfering with the growth of the latter.

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

The Wild Life survey and Dr Cotton's article are absorbing. Interpretative signs were noted at Rathcormac, Drumcliffe River and further down towards the sea. You are doing splendid work on a widespread riverine and coastal tract of land – this is very much in accordance with a countrywide movement and supersedes the earlier Tidy Towns objective that confined the competition to the area between the name signs on approach roads. The bug hotel was noted and it is good to learn that the committee supplied the bee-friendly perennials to the school garden. A school of thought suggests that wildflowers should be left to themselves and not enhanced by human agency: clearly you do not subscribe to this notion, nor does this adjudicator. Well done on your work towards the eradication of knotweed – to say that this is no mean task is something of an understatement. It is good to learn that planning is almost resolved for the River Walk; this amenity should divert some of the crowds after visiting Drumcliffe church. Good luck for the funding of the Court Tomb and its environs and also of the Rath (which this adjudicator was unable to locate and local passers-by could not offer directions to).

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

Again thanks for information on projects of which the adjudicator would otherwise be unaware. That you should have reduced waste formerly destined for landfill by 40% is exemplary, and also that you should use home-originated compost for your own planters and bedding. It is noted that a third of litter collected is recyclable. In one of your documents it is mentioned that the school has achieved a green flag – this will be of interest to the TT committee in Carney whose children attend the Rathcormac school and do not seem to be aware of the GF initiative. Judging from the photographs the recycled ornaments competition was a great success. Congratulations to the pupils, teachers and parents for their green flag. In spite of having requested less paperwork, it would be helpful if you were to add a brief list of GF achievements. It has been found in other centres that the GF influences local practice enormously, the children supplying the information to their homes.

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

Very little dereliction was seen. Rathcormac Motors is as bright and clean as anyone could wish, but really, on such a scenic road, could not the railings at least be painted in a subdued colour? It is quite inspiring to learn that you are centrally involved in the Clean Coasts initiative and have taken responsibility for the estuarine area at Coolbeg and Doonierin. Well done too for the work of volunteers as far afield as Glencar, and congratulations to the volunteers who took part in the National Spring Clean. Is there any way of stopping littering and dumping at source? It would be preferable if dedicated volunteers had something more creative to do than clean up after less civically-minded citizens.

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

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

Rebuilding of the stone wall at Drumcliffe church in the original manner was very favourably noted. The car parks, both here and at Rathcormac, were spic and span. The lane described at Rathcormac did not seem as untidy as anticipated. It was noted that the school yard had been repaved, and the paving at the adjacent church is first class. Elegant lamp standards at Drumcliffe remind one of the old wooden poles with their clusters of cables, now mercifully a thing of the past. Surfacing, cambering and marking of the main road is excellent, and the bye-roads are of acceptable standard.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**