

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromahane** Ref: **1203**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **244**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2017**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	31	32
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	31	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>244</b>

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

Dromahane is very welcome to the 2017 Tidy Towns competition, your eighth year to take part. Thank you for your clearly presented submission and map. As last year's adjudicator noted we always recommend a three to five year plan to help Tidy Towns communities see where they are heading and very importantly see how much they have achieved! Plans can also help in gathering more volunteers as people unable to commit to full committee membership can often commit to smaller projects within your plan. Despite your relatively small population it is very heartening to see how many volunteers (26!) are willing to give their time to their local area – keep it up folks! Your association with the local school and Youth Club is great ensuring lots of community-minded people on into Dromahane's future.

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

Dromahane presents a lovely traditional Irish village scene focussed on the crossroads with very pretty hedgerow-lined approach roads. There are many examples of old houses and cottages being very well kept and maintained with the village buildings looking well- Russell's pub, Hickey's and the Community Hall particularly catch the eye. Some lovely hanging baskets at the crossroads were being watered and well tended during the adjudication visit.

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

The Village Green is lovely little green oasis with its Lime and Oak trees looking very healthy as they head towards maturity. There's potential here for a couple of herbaceous perennial flower beds to add colour and biodiversity value without too much effort or expense (perhaps some of the lovely gardens surrounding might donate a few cuttings!). There were lots of small wildflowers growing through the grass as it was not mowed too tightly – this was great to see. The Community Park is a great asset, however, the entranceway and all along the roadside fence had been sprayed with herbicide leaving ugly, dead vegetation. This is unnecessary and Tidy Towns discourages herbicide use – keep it for the necessary work such as the extermination of the harmful Japanese Knotweed as seen near the Community Hall. A spot with potential for more interest is a small grassy square in front of parking spaces on the Killarney Road – there are already pretty little wildflowers growing in the grass but there's potential for a Pollinator project here through encouragement of the wildflowers and perhaps the local school children might like to build a bug hotel?

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

As you noted yourselves in your submission, this is an area that you plan to do more work on in years to come,

however, the foundations are already there with beautiful biodiversity-rich hedgerows lining your approach roads and several wildflower-rich grassy areas noted above. Much can be achieved in this category at very little expense – a great place to start is to obtain the free Local Community version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (available at [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)). There's also a Junior version for schools so get your local school and Youth Club involved. There's lots of potential – for example, how about leaving the edges of the Community Park grow as wildflower meadows? This would simply involve leaving mowing to just twice a year – once in June and once in September. Depending on how wide a band you leave grow, you could make a feature of it and keep a grassy path mowed in it that would wind its way round the Park edges. Also there's potential here to plant a few native trees to add interest and biodiversity value, species such as Whitebeam, Rowan, Holly, Spindle and Guelder rose are all small trees with interest through much of the year between flowers, berries and autumn colour.

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

Dromahane N.S. pupils sound like they've been very busy working on various sustainability projects and this is great to hear. Their knowledge could perhaps be harnessed in the future to spread the word amongst the rest of the Dromahane community. It would also be worthwhile to contact your Environmental Awareness Office in Cork Co.Co. as they will have plenty of helpful information for you.

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

Everywhere looked very well-kept and tidy in Dromahane during the adjudication visit. This reflects your great local, voluntary efforts – well done and keep up your good work.

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

All the local housing estates were visited and all were well-maintained. There's scope here for some planting of shrubs and herbaceous perennials to attract pollinators and add a bit more interest – a project for the future perhaps.

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

Lovely wild hedgerows are a great feature of the approach roads to Dromahane. All the signs on the approach roads looked well and the kerbs and verges at the village approaches and all been well maintained.

### **Concluding Remarks:**