

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromahair**

Ref: **673**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **274**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **20/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	40	41
The Built Environment	50	36	37
Landscaping	50	38	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	22
Litter Control	50	37	38
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	12	12
Tidiness	30	16	16
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	269	274

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Dromahair to the 2013 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and supporting documentation. Your committee by national standards is a large one and has many valuable and useful skills among the members. Congratulations on the launch of your new 5 Year Plan in January which was read with great interest. This will provide you with a clear vision of what should be achieved year by year. You have achieved really excellent involvement in TidyTowns from the Dromahair community and the competition appears to be deeply embedded in the life of the village. That is exactly what TidyTowns in all about but it does not always happen. Many agencies and groups are supporting your work and that is a great recipe for future progress and success. Your communications strategy is very good. Thank you for the photographs which were helpful. It is suggested that you number each new project for the year in the entry form and key the location project to the map using the same numbers.

The Built Environment:

Work in progress at the old Hostel was examined and good progress is underway here. Your focus on derelict buildings is correctly placed and this is an issue in many towns. As you have discovered cosmetic work at low cost can often make a great visual difference. Good luck to DARC and the Community Park project and your adjudicator examined the plans for this which are impressive. The survey of the Built Heritage was read with interest and there is potential here for a Heritage / Architectural Trail around Dromahair. Your adjudicator really liked the concept of 'Reclaim Our Village' and it is an idea that could be used in many villages in Ireland. Work was in progress at the old Post Box on the day of the visit. The work at Breffini Cottages on signage is acknowledged. The attractive stone building at The Depot was visited and admired, while along the roadside at the Church of Ireland the stone wall with plant growth is an attractive feature. The colour scheme used at McGoldrick's works well. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role. To the front of the Library the flowers here work well in colour terms with the natural stone of the building. At Stanford's Inn repainting here is effective.

Landscaping:

Landscaping at the village sign on the Sligo approach was admired. Well done on the planting of eighty saplings

which were seen around the village. Hanging baskets and flower containers added colour throughout Dromahair and the Donate A plant scheme is unusual but obviously effective. Has the County Council started work yet on the Japanese Knotweed problem – this is a serious issue. Good luck with the Rock Valley project. Your adjudicator reminds the Tidy Towns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Attractive raised landscaping caught the eye at the Drumlease corner.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Creevelea River Walk was enjoyed and perhaps you might consider the provision of some wildlife information at the beginning of the walk before the river bridge. The bird boxes are a great addition and it was good to see from the photographs that they are being used. Good luck with the September Bat Walk; will this be an annual project? What a good idea to have the Flora and Fauna talks during the Demon Festival. That is another great way of gaining additional interest / support from the community for your work. It was good to get the students involved in the Bug Hotel and perhaps they will monitor usage over the School year.

Litter Control:

Your work on the dog waste problem is understood from the entry form and the small neat signs were seen in the village. You seem to have year round litter patrols and your adjudicator was very impressed with the high degree of litter control evident in Dromahair. The litter bin audit is unusual but well worth doing. Do make sure to get the most suitable design of bins for the village when the new ones are being ordered. There are so many different designs. The Bring Centre on the Back Lane was very tidy but the fingerpost was pointing in the wrong direction. The village centre and surrounding roads were generally notable for the absence of litter black spots.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

The Waste Awareness audit details were read with great interest. What are you going to do with the survey results? Good luck to the School on their Green Flag Programme and it is great that you are able to support them in this. It was great to read also of the Walking Bus. The Inspirational Homes Weekend is imaginative and so useful and your adjudicator has not come across this concept before. What else is happening in Dromahair about waste elimination and / or reduction as this is the core issue of this category? Do give this continued discussion and work in the year ahead.

Tidiness:

Newly repaired and painted gates were seen on various roads and well done on the project to remove dumped cars – none were seen. It was good that the Angling Club was able to work on riverside signage. Overall Dromahair was found to be quite tidy apart from issues in estate areas detailed below. It was good to get involved with the County Council on the illegal signs issue.

Residential Areas:

The sculpture at the entrance to Rock Valley estate was visited and admired. This estate was tidy apart from some kerb weed. There is an attractive open feeling to Millbank but kerb weed was also seen here. Tree and shrub planting in various estates was seen and this makes a difference. Good door colour choices at Abbeyvale caught the eye. Timber fencing needed to be treated at Drumlease and some good landscaping was admired near the builder's sign. Wood Green / Speers Green were well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Work at the Ballintogher green area was visited and this area looked well as did the realignment of the footpath at Drumlease road. Most fencing seen was well maintained. On the Sligo approach to Dromahair the verges had been rather roughly cut and on the Carrickmacross approach cut grass had not been removed. The same issue was noted along Drumlease road. Along Back lane the tall mature trees and fine stone walls add much to the appeal of this area.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Dromahair after an absence of many years. Good luck in the year ahead with your many ambitious projects when we will look forward to returning to Dromahair.