

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromahair** Ref: **673**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **308**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **06/07/2018**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	50	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	27	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>308</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Cuireann an moltóir fáilte roimh Droim Dha Thiar chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. We welcome you Dromahair to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition and to the celebration of the sixtieth year of the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition!

Firstly we would like to say that we liked your chart showing the work done during the past year. It is like a calendar or diary of Drumahair Tidy Towns. It would be helpful if you had attached page numbers to your appendices list. A table of contents normally implies inclusion of page numbers. We have taken the liberty to mark the page numbers for our easy referencing.

You have a good committee guiding you with 14 people on board and twenty other people volunteering. You hold two meetings per month. With regard to the agencies, bodies and businesses that have supported you - your entry is impressive and includes many local businesses and community groups such as drama and sports groups - as well as statutory agencies. All obviously feel that you are worth supporting.

Thank you for submitting the summary of your new Tidy Towns plan 2018 to 2021. You will be submitting an updated expanded version in 2019. You are taking a good approach in surveying and analysing issues before commencing the plan. Do let us know also about the public meetings and consultation process that is now ongoing when you submit the plan in 2019. You have completed the first two stages of the plan which involved a meeting of the committee with the consultant and a questionnaire survey being sent to every household.

You communicate with your community through traditional - and more recently social media - which is now your main source of communication. Having said this perhaps we missed something - but we found your Facebook page did not have as many entries as we might have expected from a busy community. Nonetheless your communication methods are obviously working.

You are involved with the youth. Due to new staffing changes in the local national school you have put on hold the carrying out of a school project, but you have plans to start again in September. Meanwhile the school is busily involved in the Green Flag programme. It has achieved in the Global citizenship litter and waste flag. In turn - you help the school - as they help you. Moreover you are involved with the Foróige club. You work on landscaping and biodiversity with the club. You hold a regular 'Blotto' competition to raise funds for your work.

The projects that concentrated most effort this year concerned improvement to the infrastructure of the town. You have applied for Town and Village Enhancement funding. You are also hopeful of securing additional funding from

the LEADER programme. This particular project includes realignment of the junction at the entrance to the old OPW site etc., and is one that you have been trying to achieve for 20 years. Well done on having matching funds in place. The community building refurbishment is another project which concentrated a lot of your effort and energy. Well done on the provision of the wheelchair accessible toilet. Obviously you already have wheelchair access to the building. Have you heard of the Changing Places movement? This concerns the provision of fully accessible appropriate toilet facilities and is something that all communities hopefully will think about when providing (especially public) accessible toilet facilities into the future. You will find web pages and Facebook pages about this online. The movement is really only beginning in Ireland but is already big in the UK.

The final project which consumed a lot of your energy involved considering the senior citizens in your community and the provision of a suitable waiting space for the local link bus. You have applied to RAPID had for funding for this project. It seems you are well aware of the funding streams available and can spread your requests widely. You also gave special attention to nature and biodiversity

You continue your drive to get progress on the Abbey Manor hotel site.

Well done on 40 years of hard work entering this competition - and in particular to those members of the committee who have been involved for 30 years. Two of your residents won the Unsung Hero Manorhamilton municipal district category award in 2017. You must be proud of them! Well done to the other local prizewinners in your area. You feel that the competition is crucial to your efforts on behalf of the community and keeps you focused on what is important.

The map submitted did show some key buildings and did show approach roads and some housing estates (only). In the entry form guidelines (item 3) you were asked to "please number each new or continuing project for 2018 on your entry form under the correct category. These numbers should be shown on the legend to the town or village map where relevant." Furthermore in item 5 it is stated "when numbering projects your first project under streetscape and public places should be numbered 1 and carry this numeric sequence into subsequent categories". You have not numbered the projects sequentially through the entry form. In fact you have not numbered the projects at all in your entry form. You have however mapped numbered projects with a key on the map and you have indicated in writing which projects are new, maintenance or future projects in your entry form. We recommend that you carefully study the guidelines to completing your entry form annually.

We liked your collage photographs of your work which was like a pictorial summary

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

You have made "a huge effort" to clean up derelict sites /buildings owned by absentee owners. You concentrate your efforts on this rather than working on locally owned properties where you feel the owners should take control.

We are sorry that the Garda Station is still empty and there appears to be a problem in handing the building over to a local club. Meanwhile you have painted the boundary walls and gates. You are well aware that the building itself needs repainting but you cannot have this work done as yet. It is a pity to see the non-traditional uPVC windows inserted in place of the original timber sash windows. By contrast we loved the traditional farm gate which you have highlighted with the nice blue paint. You have also treated moss and removed weeds here. We hope that resolution will arise during the coming year.

The substation nearby is a neglected looking site with dirty walling at the foot of the good stone walling. The site needs to be swept and treated for moss.

The former Breffni Centre is hoping to start some restoration shortly. This is very badly needed. The Breffni Centre is an issue - extending to your Bring Bank site.

The cottage beside the church was given a facelift during the year and you are attempting to restore the cottage garden with a wildflower garden. Meanwhile you have added window boxes to your mock windows. The Depot parish hall on the Back Line has been totally refurbished with new disability features. Well done on this! New footpaths are under way including a pedestrian bridge. We look at this in more detail under Approach roads etc.

Although you do not specifically mention the projects that you concentrated a lot of effort on this year under this category heading you have already mentioned them and we have discussed them under the Community category where you detailed each. Nonetheless they are creditable here as they are for the most part relevant projects.

St, Phelim's nursing home looked well but the set back road side boundary was weedy.

The old mill apartments looked really well in their landscaped setting. It is great to see the old mill being conserved and used for modern purposes. The disused site adjacent detracts from the otherwise lovely complex and in particular the gate area of the site looks badly. The old railway buildings and sheds were admired. We were glad to see a planning application notice for the stone and red brick two-storey building. This hopefully will mean its continued conservation. The Riverside Inn looked well

The primary school boundary wall would benefit from a repaint before 2018. We were surprised at the 'tatty' notice board outside the school. We suggest that this be attended to as a matter of importance, as an untidy notice board gives a poor impression of a school that is very involved with your work. Perhaps a bigger notice board is required?

The school has good clean railings in front of the entrance. The building is well maintained and the site is nicely landscaped.

Your engineer is probably so busy looking after you that there is not time to attend to painting the door at this district engineer's office. But we would suggest that this might be done during the coming year. We also consider that the wooden planter pot looks out of place in front of the stone sign in the curtilage of the district office.

The primary care centre was very well presented.

The Catholic Church and the parochial house form strident features of your town on the Parke's Castle approach. There were both presented excellently.

The hotel building seems to be about to 'come back to life' and looked really well - apart from the weeds growing in the paved surface outside. We look forward to seeing the security fencing removed. Nonetheless it will be critical to address the adjacent site between the hotel and the walkway to the Abbey to complete the picture.

Stone walls are a traditional aspect of your built heritage and we admired some very good stone walls - such as those around the Church of Ireland area. We very much admired the old milestone for Manorhamilton/Bundoran and Enniskillen. The sculpture near the Rock Valley sign looked well and is in a lovely setting. The sculpture "O'Rourke's Seat is beautifully sited at an important junction in your village. These pieces of public art are great assets in your built environment.

The stone bridge over the River Bonet is a lovely part of your built environment and a nice introduction to your town. We wondered if it is necessary to have the solar powered box attached to the bridge in such a prominent position. We imagine this has something to do with river measurements. Would there be a more appropriate place for it to be sited?

Covering supermarket windows with extensive advertising signage detracts from the streetscape. This is the situation at Centra. Could you encourage the owners to use the windows for real display rather than advertising signage? The bus stop is well presented. Ann's cutting corner has a traditional feel to its shop front. However it seems a shame that this and so many other properties have had uPVC inserts instead of the traditional timber sash windows which would have been prevalent in the village. The 'best of luck Dromahair' sign detracted somewhat from the said premises. The post office was neat.

Gala looked well and it is good to see that off-street car parking is provided here. Whereas the Gala building is well presented we felt that the scale of the coffee cup outside and the number of advertisements on the footpath detracted from the overall appearance.

The small grotto in the stone wall was an interesting miniature feature

The Village Tearooms looked extremely well with very good mature trees on the site and we admired the delightful blue floral planters about. Near this we noticed a nice gate to a single-storey house. The butcher's premises was neat but its siting and design interferes with the streetscape line and character. The fact that the forecourt is used for edge-to-edge car parking makes this a rather unattractive space. To the side of the shop some tidying could be carried out behind the metal gate.

Your Eolas Cuartaíochta signage looked well. The Terrace of houses below the Garda Station was very well maintained - apart from some boundary wall edging. On the opposite side of the street the end of the terrace house would benefit from repainting on the gable and street boundary in particular.

We were very disappointed to see the sad condition that your historic letterbox is in. This needs urgent professional conservation. We notice that the box is still in use. Many communities would love to have such a historic feature but do not.

The Chinese takeaway building could do with freshening-up. And certainly the two satellite dishes do nothing for - not alone this building - but for any other buildings to which they are attached. Satellite dishes can 'ruin' streetscapes when they 'multiply'. It is important to be aware that planning permission is an issue in relation to the attachment of satellite dishes to the front elevations of any property. On the far corner at the junction with the Manorhamilton road the green building looked really well, and we spent a lot of time reading all your displays in the various windows thereof.

Apart from the Bring Bank area the entire length of the Back Line looked very well - especially towards the stone built buildings at the Church of Ireland end of the road.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

You have completed five small but significant new projects under this heading and continue maintenance as well.

We also look at the work you have carried out on the Drumkeeran approach road in relation to the new hornbeam

trees under the Approach roads category as well. You have replaced two trees with Rowan trees at two different estates. At the Stonebridge estate you have planted Coillte sponsored saplings to screen the substation. You are trying a new approach at the entry bed in the same estate. This includes a Welcome stone and new whitethorn hedge.

Meanwhile you maintain the landscaping at the sewage treatment plant. There is certainly room for improvement with additional planting is at this location. You hope to introduce kerbing next year to deter motorists from driving in on the area.

The cottage garden is your third new project.

You do not mention your Poly tunnel under this category heading but we include credit it here as it appears in your photographs as indeed does your flower tower.

It was a beautiful Saturday evening when we were in Dromahair and we visited the Park. We read the notice board in relation to the targets for this area and the proposed development plan. There were very few people around and there was nobody using the playground the area was clean but empty. We consider that there were too many signs scattered around the railings and the bridge which need to be rationalised. The bridge itself is dull and drab. Perhaps the reason the Park is underused is that there is no effective footpath all the way from the town outwards. Perhaps the gaps can be filled in.

In the Main Street we liked the way you had enclosed the utilities box in this set back in the stone wall. The fuchsia and other shrubs growing nearby helped to assimilate what can otherwise be an ugly insertion in a streetscape.

With regard to hanging baskets - we feel that your streetscape does not need any embellishment. It is important that the front elevations of the houses and businesses are not cluttered - and retain a simple traditional appearance. Hanging baskets can of course brighten up dull areas. Furthermore inserting hanging basket brackets into the fabric of a protected structure can damage the fabric of the protected structure. Hanging baskets should not - we are advised - be attached to light standards or other utility/power poles in the interests of safety.

The opinion of this adjudicator is that the wooden planter boxes near the Fire Post interfere with the 'flow' of the lovely stone walls and treed canopies. This stretch of footpath is beautiful as it is. We feel that it can stand alone and doesn't need additions. There are many places in your town that would benefit from this colourful and in its own right good display, but we do not think that this is the best place.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

You have commissioned a wildlife survey from a wildlife ranger which is now complete. No doubt this will guide you into the future - as will the thesis about the turlough outside the village. You have added to the number of bat boxes this year, and they are to be found along the Main Street at dwellings and in trees. Your bird boxes are in good use again, and we notice that you are mapping and tracking their occupancy.

You are making a special effort to encourage the protection of your bee population through the planting of plants on the pollination list. You are replacing the least pollination friendly shrubs and have provided new signs to make people more aware of the need to look after the bee population. Yes - we did like the signs.

We see from your new plan summary that invasive species is of particular importance- as is looking at the river Bonet as a resource. Have the rhododendrons along the Abbey walk caused you any problems? Beautiful as they are - you will know that in the Killarney National Park this plant (not native) has created an invasive species problem.

We observed what seemed to be fairly recent hedge trimming on the Manorhamilton approach. . Remember that it is permissible to trim hedging along cultivated ground (e.g. gardens) throughout the year. However with regard to hedge trimming bordering non cultivated land - you are reminded that it is an offence under the Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2006 to cut vegetation in a hedge or ditch on lands not cultivated between 1st March and 31st August annually - this is for the protection of nesting birds. Before trimming any such hedges please consult with your local authority who will deal with this issue if there is a safety aspect involved. Birdwatch Ireland has helpful information in this regard also. As we write a new Bill has come before the Dáil in relation to extending the period of hedge cutting.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

You believe that you have a good track record on sustainability. You intend looking forward to taking this experience as part of your new plan to make Drumahair become an example of a living sustainable town. We congratulate you on winning the Manorhamilton municipal district winner in the 'Cleaner and Greener' awards 2017.

The community building upgrade involved some energy-efficient works. We are glad to know that you use water butts for landscaping purposes and for power washing footpaths. The gardening courses which you are running are proving very popular.

The remainder of the projects which you list involve recycling.

You ran classes in the Depot for restyling fashion and had craft sessions available also. You have a book swap

corner which involves further recycling. You recycled the carpets from the community building and used them at your poly tunnel.

You are aware that recycling - whereas good - is at the bottom of the pyramid as regards sustainability and waste management. Sustainability is about more than recycling - worthy though recycling is. It is about eliminating waste before it is produced. Would your businesses come together to audit their waste issues with a view to preventing waste? Would you consider joining the Green Homes scheme? We would recommend that you contact the Environmental Awareness Officer of your local authority whom we are sure would be very happy to advise you as to how to advance in this work/category. The Tidy Towns Handbook will also help you to come up with ideas. There is a local waste prevention website - which you can link to from the Tidy Towns website.

There are many simple and imaginative projects that you could consider - or 'come up with' new unique projects. Start small - and you will become a sustainable town in due course.

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

You have maintained your litter patrols throughout the year and you are happy with the results. The remaining litter bin near the Catholic Church is to be removed as it has been misused for household waste. We liked your imaginative litter signs "Wish you were here"! We hope that the perpetrators had to take their 'offerings' home!

We are glad to know that you work with the local engineer to discuss issues of concern which include issues to do with footpaths, street lighting and road resurfacing. You have removed a number of redundant signs and are working on remaining redundant signs. Some signs have been removed and some painted. You painted a picket fence on the Drumkeeran approach at the bridge.

You have painted the Fire Box and information signs opposite the Chinese takeaway

You have painted information signs at the butcher's

Well done on getting your textile banks removed and replaced. These can often let down the Bring Bank area as they can become quite rusty. You have power washed the Bring Banks. We are disappointed to hear that you have been unsuccessful in getting the abandoned buses removed from this site. They do indeed compromise any attempt to make this site more presentable. Putting a few odd (unmatched) plastic flower containers does not do anything for this area. The boxed tree planter helped. The wall behind the bins is very dirty. Is there no alternative site available? This adjudicator saw no appreciable difference in this site in the last several years - since our last visit. The site is right in the centre of your town on the busy Back Line. And the standard of stone walls, houses, gardens etc. along this road is good otherwise. Why does the sign on the wall behind say "Breffni Centre private car park? Are the bins in a public or private space? A small amount of sweeping around the bin bases would have been good.

The condition of the Breffni centre will hopefully be ameliorated as the owners assure you that they are ready to start work on a phased basis.

You have installed cameras at the Depot building to discourage dumping.

A beer can was thrown inside the boundary of the Telecom substation near the Garda station. On the brow of this hill and also near the Breffni holiday complex -which appears to be defunct - there was a large worn, dirty and empty wooden notice board inside the stone wall and underneath the nice trees. On the other side of the entrance to this development the stone wall was broken and there were a further two defunct large signs under the trees right at the roadside. The gate is also 'ageing'.

The fingerpost sign for the Abbey is faded, and the Camino sign is very strident. Both could be improved. The access to the Abbey walk is particularly poor and most uninviting at every level. It is untidy, has weedy edges, with a very poor building along the approach - which at the very least needs painting and repair of the plywood window cover along the path side. The signage for Creevelea Abbey is behind security fencing. It promises a "delightful walk up to the Abbey" - but we think that the average 'punter' at this stage would turn back! The wooden Glendella walk signage is nailed to a wooden fence - is broken and is right beside an ugly concrete wall. The field gates by the river are unpainted - and the next large Abbey sign along the side of the path is worn, dirty, and damaged. At the wooden stile we found tin can litter. We find it difficult to understand this - as you are enthusiastic about your village. Beyond this point the situation improves and the Abbey end is much better. Although the Abbey environs are quite a distance from your village you have been out there working - witness your nature reserve work and your 'wish you were here' signage. It seems a pity that the Teachín An Craobh Liath stone house appears to be abandoned. An old pink chalet type building detracts somewhat from this area. The Glendella wooden walk sign is also broken. The Sligo Way sign is new - if a bit 'urban' in its cast iron frame for this rural location. We admired the comfortable looking seating against the stone wall although two concrete blocks adjacent detracted a little from it. We noted the An Craobh Liath small sculpture with its chamfered edges adjacent.

How successful has your 'no dog fouling' signage been? One of the signs is located at the entrance to the Abbey walk. The stone wall here needs repair at this corner.

The overall impression of the town was one of tidiness on the surface. But the two black spots i.e. the Bring Banks / Breffni Centre and the Abbey Walk need addressing.

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

You started a Best Kept Estate competition in 2016. Well done to Forest Grove estate who won the Best Kept Estate / municipal district winner recently. They also won your own Best Kept Estate competition during the year. This estate has planted a number of trees recently. Indeed Garrán na Foraoise is beautifully landscaped inside and out. The trees that have been planted are well protected.

Churchfield estate won the Most Improved estate. Well done to the sponsors. We see that you are about to introduce an individual Best Kept Garden category. No doubt you will be promoting the use of native species, perennials and pollinator friendly plantings and encouraging the provision of fruit trees/orchards and some wild garden areas also. You work closely with the various estates.

You have replaced two trees with rowan trees at two different estates. At the Stonebridge estate you have planted Coillte sponsored sapling to screen the substation. (We did not see any name on the estate at Stonebridge). You are trying a new approach at the entry bed in the same estate. This will include a Welcome stone and new whitehorn hedge. The entry bed looked very beautiful on adjudication day with its backing traditional stone wall and surrounding semi-mature trees. This is a good example of visually attractive and sustainable planting. On adjudication day we saw a tractor parked halfway up on the open space. The stop sign at the exit onto the public road needs to be repainted. The bicycle sign just above the River Bonet brown sign is slightly bent and the pedestrian sign below it is encroached on by some branches. We admired the lovely white cast iron gates across from this exit.

You are working with the residents of Millbank Glenn to try to get the public lighting in operation. As many of the houses are not all occupied this is proving a little difficult. We see that you are experiencing difficulty with the dumping of grass outside Millbank Glenn also. You are aware that the hedging is unkempt and the footpaths neglected.

Acres estate has been trying to improve - but some houses are empty and this brings its own problems. Nonetheless the entrance to the estate looked very well and the rockery to the adjacent house added to the estate's splayed access.

At Hillcrest (?) we saw an estate with no name plate or sign. We admired the Happy Bees at the entrance. There was no name on the estate at the top of the hill. The approach was poor.

There was no name on a well presented cul-de-sac at Drumlease. The estate consisted of two story and single story houses. We observed parking on the footpath within this estate. On-footpath parking looks ugly, damages footpaths - but more importantly is obstructive and hazardous for wheelchair users and others with mobility problems and for buggy users. It is also inconvenient for pedestrians. In this estate we admired the seats on the open space. And adjacently we observed a second cul-de-sac without any name sign. The planting here was admired but there were some weedy footpaths nearby. Some boundary wall treatment is needed and once again we observed a lot of on-footpath parking. A picnic bench and tables need varnishing and some weeds removed from the adjacent paving and open space.

Millbrook Green estate has a lovely treed background and was well maintained.

At Wood Green estate there was a considerable amount of fungal staining on some houses. Many trees were leaning. Some properties were unoccupied which meant we saw some weedy neglected gardens. However the occupied house gardens and the estate otherwise had good shrub planting. We particularly admired the shrub planting from Wood Green to Speers Green.

Once again there was no name on the estate that contains the primary care centre. However the estate looked very well with leafy surrounds and magnificent views outwards from the estate.

And yet again there was no name on the cul-de-sac beside the Church of Ireland.

We visited the Park which includes the playground on a lovely Saturday evening but there was nobody using the playground.

Rock Valley estate is a leafy area and has good gravel landscaping with shrubs and, perhaps - an overemphasis on laurel - despite its attractiveness visually.

Well done on your bilingual estate signage. It is very important that you make sure each estate has a name (bilingual). Signage should be legible whichever direction one approaches the estate from on the public road - this may involve two signs or double sided signage. A nice alternative would be to provide specific two-sided fingerpost signage which would be uniform throughout the town. You have a large number of housing estates.

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

Your plan summary has identified car parking in the town and dealing with lane ways as a issues to be looked at. You have completed four new projects under this heading and continued with maintenance as well. You have power washed footpaths throughout the town. The water for this work has been collected by householders and in your own

water butts. The shortfall was taken from the river.

On the Manorhamilton approach there was some advertising and we also observed some hedge trimming which seemed to be of fairly recent origin. Please refer to our comments above. The 50 K pH speed limit sign was turned with a leaning pole nearby.

The school crossing at Drumlease Primary School needs attention. Across from the school we noted a falling farm gate and a post and wire fence with a weedy edge to the site it encloses. Last year's adjudicator said that the cleaning of the site opposite the school was noted and the involvement of the schoolchildren in its redevelopment should have a good educational benefit. Perhaps the improvement of the boundary and weeding will be part of its redevelopment - but it is unclear to this adjudicator what this redevelopment consists of. The wheelchair space parking markings at the school and other spaces need to be repainted on the ground.

The Humbert approach off the Manorhamilton approach would benefit from new road markings and we observed that the junction sign was somewhat obscured by vegetation. The roundabout at the junction here looked well with its shrub planting. We admired the nature reserve on the left-hand side in the bank. A butterfly appeared to be the emblem for this site. Perhaps more details might be provided in due course. The stone name sign at Drumlease is adequate and doesn't need a pot as well. We noted some dead branches in the hedge in this approach area. It appeared that there was also some hedge cutting of recent origin on this approach.

From Speers Green into the town centre the road markings were very good. There is a lovely 'sweep' into the village from the Church of Ireland area.

On the Sligo approach the garage area inside the Ballintogher junction would benefit from a little tidying or screening of its side curtilage. Across the road from the garage inside a stone wall and metal gate we noticed some dead fallen vegetation. Beyond this on the Sligo road the Sligo/Ballintogher sign was slightly bent. Parts of the stone wall were crumbling in this area and need attention. Your new project here includes a new footpath, a low built wall to prevent green slide and undergrounding of services. Its completion was recent and will later include the provision of a new pedestrian bridge in the general area. The work will enhance the Abbey loop walk and Greenway and also provide for safer conditions. We know that the junction is a work which has been recently completed, but a few issues remain to be finished. The Sligo side of the junction badly needs resurfacing and the 'stop' sign on the road surface needs repainting. A junction sign as one leaves the junction for Sligo is bent. We very much admired your wildflowers inside the new wooden boundary fence. However we felt that the sapling trees need some support as they have not been staked. The 'Welcome to Drumahair' green sign on the town side of the bridge is very much obscured by the adjacent trees. There is a need for repairing of the stone wall on the town side of the river Bonnet bridge.

On the minor Millbrook Green approach there was some weedy paving in places. Otherwise this approach is leafy and attractive. Some road markings might be improved. Another minor approach by O'Rourke's Table road was also verdant. In this enclave of the village we admired the wooden seat and the old pump with the nearby lovely pink blooms.

As mentioned under Landscaping you are continuing to work on planting at the sewage treatment plant on the Parke's castle approach.

We observed parking on the footpath near Centra. As already mentioned - on-footpath parking looks ugly, damages footpaths - but more importantly is obstructive and hazardous for wheelchair users and others with mobility problems and for buggy users.

Some road signage such as that at the Manorhamilton junction is exceptionally clean and new. Some alleyways like that beside the Gala shop (upper end) need attention.

Back Line road surface was good.

As already described – a number of trees were planted on approach roads.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was nice to see all your successes acknowledged in the window displays at the Manorhamilton junction. This must inspire people passing by to be part of your work. Drumahair is a popular town - which quite recently used to be a village. The growth in housing estate numbers and consequently in population is quite startling. We are sure that you will look at the infrastructure needed to be upgraded to 'town' status, as in many ways the centre is still a village with village services. We assume that most people commute out of Drumahair to work on a daily basis. You have challenges to meet, but we are sure that you will rise to each. We wish you continued success this year and into the future. Go n-éirí libh i rith na blianta atá romhainn!