

# Tidy Towns Competition 2021

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Dromahair - Droim Dhá Thiar</b>	Ref: <b>673</b>
County: <b>Leitrim</b>	Mark: <b>320</b>
Category: <b>C</b>	Date(s): <b>07/08/2021</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	51
Streetscape & Public Places	60	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>320</b>

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paidéime.

Lean leis an dea-obair,

Thank you for an exceptional entry form coupled with the pictorial evidence of involvement of the last two years as the 3 year plan which is in its last year.

Your input under Covid heading “Staying together while Apart” is nicely detailed with a number of bullet points supplemented by the pictorial evidence of activities such Zoom meetings and the very community oriented project in collaboration the local GAA Club that benefited the residents at St Phelims Nursing Home.

Well done to all that contributed to these initiatives during trying times

The Committee of 12 and the volunteer core of 25 is very impressive for any community and it is a very proactive and together collective judging by the work that has been undertaken particularly during the life of the 3 Year Plan which is in its last year of relevance.

Well done on being proactive in engaging with other community groups in examining possibilities such joint leasing of premises and submission for funding support under the Village Renewal Scheme

Involvement with Roscommon County Council, relevant agencies and most importantly other local community organisations is very strong judging by performance of Dromahair in the competition in recent years.

Community Committees cannot work effectively without ongoing support of other stakeholders and you have achieved very good balance on this respect

The attached photographic collage under this heading indicates clearly the cross section of activities.

Methods of communication are well documented and the adjudicator linked into the Facebook page which is update in terms of content.

Posterfree.ie is new to this adjudicator but one learns something significant every day of one's life so thanks for the introduction to this medium

The list of priority projects was noted and the scope of work undertaken is impressive as is the manner in which you mobilised and encouraged all sections of your community to become involved for the betterment of the village.

Good to note that there is a strong youth involvement in Tidy Towns in Dromahair.

You are to commended for fostering this type of youth involvement as it will pay dividends in generations to come.

Forty years of participation in the competition is some achievement and you are wished many more years of same. An additional mark to add to your already high mark achieved in this category over the last few years is awarded

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

The 2019 report contained quite a detailed comment under this category which of course was based on an site visit

and personal observations.

This adjudicator will endeavor to reflect the work done in this category, and indeed in all categories, as best as possible based on what has been submitted by way of narrative and pictorial records.

A picture paints a thousand words is a mantra that well applies to submissions for this year's Tidy Towns Competition and what you have included in pictorial form certainly backs up the worded content.

Yes if one can recall correctly the Abbey Hotel was mentioned in the 2019 in not such a flattering way and its noteworthy that you have put it at the top of your bullet list.

Hopefully as you say it will be restored to its former glory as it was once a central part of the village economy.

Good to note that you are in a discussion process with Leitrim County Council and OPW about a long term Lease of the Garda barracks for the community.

The future plans under the Buildings heading have been noted and therefore no need to repeat them.

The unsightly container which was alluded to in 2019 reported is now removed and thanks for reacting positively to the adjudicator's suggestion at the time.

The welcome stones are very well designed and ideal size for an entrance

The Boardwalk is a welcome safety addition on the bridge as it will allow pedestrians, particularly older residents, to walk safely and with protection

An excellent mix of completed projects completed since 2019 and the planned ones will probably form part of the work schedule in this category in the new 3 year plan from 2022 onward.

An additional mark is awarded for both the quality your submission and the work under taken in the last two years.

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

Some excellent input in this category and quite a lot of your work is centred around the ongoing maintenance of existing and relatively new planting arrangements, flower beds and containers as well looking after communal green areas.

Well done on the additional planting of the bulbs which were acquired from Leitrim County Councils.

The donation of new saplings is a testament to the work that you do as a committee and can be seen as a gesture of appreciation from the donor.

Very fine aerial shot of the Community Park and its periphery walkway which will be an encouragement to the local population to get out and exercise in safety

Is this park used by sports clubs as well as being a community amenity?

There are many other examples that have been recorded that show the amount of work that you have undertaken over the last two years during difficult times.

It would have been much better if one could have visited and viewed these areas but what you have submitted, in the eyes of this adjudicator, merits an increase in marks.

Hopefully next year will allow a visit and a more in-depth and maybe more critiqued report

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

The effectiveness of your overall entry form especially epitomised in this category is the straightforwardness of the narrative in bullet form supplemented by a series of relevant photographs.

It indicates to an adjudicator that effort has not alone being put into the work done but also to relate it back to the reader in an easily read format.

The main guideline under the Nature and Biodiversity is "Show your understanding and awareness of biodiversity in your locality"

You as a Committee have done that in spades by way of the 13 bullet point inputs that you have highlighted.

There is little point in repeating all of these back to you but a few appealed to the adjudicator such as the plans to organize a series of Wildlife talks with Rob Wheldon which were scuppered by the pandemic but can take place maybe later in the year or hopefully in early 2022.

The making of your own weed killer is a novel one for a committee to do but it also contributes to the ethos of the next category as well.

Hope the person or persons who came up with the mix might market it other local communities well on second thoughts that could become an unwieldy process given the hoops that one would have to go through.

Well done on putting tips up on your excellent Facebook page on matters nature.

Maybe you may be in a position to run another horticulture course in early 2022.

Finally congratulations to the Transition Year students who did an excellent information board on Wildlife and Biodiversity it looks very impressive in the photograph and of course it can be updated on a regular basis if the need arise.

Well done also to those who took some excellent photos.

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

The difficulties that groups had with this category when it was first introduced have largely been overcome judging by the entries over the last few years.

Communities have bought into the ethos of doing less with more less to make centres more sustainable and create a better environmental impact.

The Circular Economy is becoming a bit of a hip subject over the last year or so but it was always with us in different eras pre the throwaway era of the Celtic Tiger!!

Plenty of websites available now on the said Circular Economy.

Let's not digress to much away from the task in hand that of judging your input in this category.

Plenty of relevant activities have taken place under this heading and there are some new ones planned.

Most of what you have submitted has now become standard judging by entries from other tidy town groups this is

not to take away from what you have submitted– anything but The adjudicator discovered a new initiative that he wasn't too familiar with Grow it Forward and he has familiarized himself with the initiative thanks to your involvement in it.

Well done on all the mini projects that were recorded in your pictorial collage.

Just to reiterate what was included in the 2019 report for idea generation and to come up with some novel ideas for your community do consult the following: [www.localprevention.ie](http://www.localprevention.ie) for ideas would be [www.greenhomes.ie](http://www.greenhomes.ie) and [www.sustainableprocessing.ie](http://www.sustainableprocessing.ie)

An additional mark is awarded for the effort that you have put into this category over the last two years

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

The 2019 report highlighted a few negative areas that needed to be addressed

The Bring Bank and a site containing redundant buses that was deemed untidy were the two main ones

The committee have reacted positively in the case of the Bring Bank judging by the photograph supplied but the other issue is probably a lot more complex and sensitive.

Maybe some approach might be made to the owner of this premises at a more appropriate time in the future to see if some basic tidying up could be carried out – subtle dialogue was suggested back in 2019!!.

The provision of a new Library might take some time so in the interim the above suggestion might be acted upon.

Well done on continuing with litter patrols on over the Covid lockdowns it certainly wasn't easy to keep continuity going so the work of the core of 17 volunteers is to be commended

Top marks also on managing to resolve the issue of dumping at The Depot, the threat of CCTV works wonders.

“The Clean up after your dog” campaign is a great movement and you are to be commended for becoming involved it – dog poo has become the scourge of the pandemic.

The work of people on the RSS scheme often goes unnoticed but the contribution of the person who made the shed from the wood of a fallen tree shows some creativity as well as community spirit.

Well done on all the practical work that you have done and that has been captured in some excellent pictures.

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

This is definitely a category that benefits from a visit by the adjudicator who makes comment based on personal observation when visiting housing developments and other parts of villages or towns.

As the guidelines state consideration should be given to the proper presentation and maintenance of all properties including frontages, boundary and gable walls etc.

One can go only by what you have submitted.

It is noted that you entered the Love Where You Live Competition in 2019 and that you were successful in winning the Cleaner and Greener section in the Competition.

This reflects well on you as Committee and on the Community as a whole.

The adjudicator noted all the mini projects that each of the Housing Developments were involved in and this denotes commitment.

One would have a better picture of what was done by visiting but adjudicator will give benefit of doubt basing on the material evidence you have submitted.

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

This was the entry sentence in the 2019 report “The standard in this category was also good with most entrances into the village maintained in accordance with good practice for the preservation of wildlife”

It looks as if the standard was maintained and possibly improved upon in the interim period with the addition of new Welcome Stones on the Manorhamilton approach road and Drumkeerin approach road as per the photograph supplied

Similarly the Footpath to the park is now completed and a state resolves a lot of safety issues for pedestrians young and old.

There new boardwalk over the river on the Drumkeerin approach road has been mentioned in a previous category.

The other measures that you have mentioned have been duly noted.

Nothing substitutes for an on site visit in this category but well done to all who have contributed to the work done and in hand at the moment- not easy during restrictions imposed because of Covid

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The adjudicator was very impressed with your submission and the content within.

A re visit to the lovely Village of Dromahair would be most welcome when the time and circumstances allow.

You are wished well for the future.