

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Drumsna - Droim ar Snámh	Ref: 428
County: Leitrim	Mark: 323
Category: B	Date(s): 20/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	34	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	37
TOTAL MARK	550	318	323

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Ádh Mór oraibh! Many thanks for your application form, complete with photographs, map and 5-Year Plan (2021-2026). I acknowledge you are a new committee and appreciate you admitting that this application form mirrors last year's. I welcome the fact you have still applied, however! It is positive that you meet up regularly. You are well supported by a range of groups and agencies. Using both new (e.g. Facebook) and old style communication methods (e.g. noticeboards and newspaper notes) is best for reaching a range of ages, which you do. Participation by the young people in your community is key and I hope this aspect continues to grow. I saw a sign at the phone box for an upcoming Bonfire Night at Drumsna Harbour during my visit, a little show of community spirit. I am pleased you continue to gain from being part of the Tidy Towns network after over 30 years and wish you all the best with the new committee!

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

Drumsna is a picturesque little village with lots of historical points of interest along its streetscape. Some of the old residences are just beautiful with striking gardens and planting along the main street. I note that some of the exteriors have recently been painted. The memorial area to Thomas Hazel Parke and Robert Strawbridge is a nice focal point which leads to the old Wesleyan graveyard. Well done on securing the new attractive bike stands – I hope they will be well used! The church is very tidy and peaceful and I commend you on its recent refurbishment, it looks fresh. The tennis court behind is in relatively good condition but may need some attention soon. There are a few derelict buildings, e.g. on Quay Street, but you seem to be proactive in addressing this, and it is highlighted in your 5-Year Plan. It would really enhance the village if some maintenance works were carried out on such buildings. I admired the community centre, which was painted last year, and its colourful display of flowers. Several people were in and out here during my visit. The playpark is well kept, as is the priest's memorial. Drumsna Harbour was very tidy with colourful benches and a good standard of signage. There may be one or two signs a little outdated though. I note that some flower displays are in the pipeline for the harbour as per your 5-Year Plan, which will add more visual interest there.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

I enjoyed the little Shannonside Walk by the riverside where I see you have kept some long grasses by the path for wildlife, as well as bee-friendly shrubs by the wall. There were some nice picnic benches along here too and a lovely view of the old bridge from the bank here. The signs at the board here may need to be replaced/updated as they have faded a bit. Well done on looking after the young trees, e.g. at the People's Orchard, which means they are

staying healthy. The public herb box by the Garden Centre is a great idea, though it may need a little maintenance. I hope it is getting plenty of use locally! The Wesleyan Graveyard is a unique structure with old gravestones, though perhaps it may need some sensitive restoration works as there was some excessive growth inside the old walls. Perhaps the Leitrim Co Co Heritage Officer can advise you on this. The little pathway and area in could be enhanced a little also. The green between the old Dublin Road and Main Street is well maintained, though quite tightly mown. I note you aim to develop a landscape management plan in your 5-Year Plan. The central benches and rose beds are nice features but a small bit of weeding and pruning is needed here and there. While I agree trees can benefit from pruning, perhaps the Birches along the entry to the harbour were a little too severely cut. I appreciate this was well meant, however.

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

I am pleased to hear you refrain from using weedkiller and also try to spread the word on this issue. I was impressed with the wildlife runs along the village verges from the Carrick-on-Shannon side and saw that your native hedgerows and trees are quite healthy and not over-managed. Do try not to dump grass cuttings along the wildlife runs as this will add too many nutrients to the ground, resulting in nettles, etc. The mature trees and long grasses are also beneficial for wildlife at the riverside. The little signs are cute along here but may need maintenance/replacing so that they can be seen clearly. I saw a few wild Orchids popping up along the verge in from Carrick-on-Shannon also, which is a very good sign. The People's Orchard is benefitting wildlife, as are your planted wildflowers, I'm sure. Just be careful of the seed source however – native seeds or collected seeds will produce flowers that are most suitable for our native pollinators, e.g. Clover, Vetches, Self-Heal. I did see some pollinator friendly flowers in village pots among the more traditional types like Begonias which have little nectar/pollen. Fair play for maintaining the Wildlife Area in the harbour! I wondered if the wildflower garden could be resurrected at the community centre (I noticed the sign from 2011)? For more inspiration under this category, check out the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) and related resources at pollinators.ie. FIT (Flower-Insect Timed) Counts are also a good idea for monitoring your insect populations – please see more at biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/fit-counts/.

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

Sustainability is a broad topic, but it boils down to actions such as conserving water, minimising waste and practising recycling, encouraging walking/cycling and public transport, as well as saving energy and using renewable energy where possible. Using compost from your communal compost heap and rainwater from your water butts to maintain the village plants is saving valuable resources, water and energy. The compost heap is being used but perhaps better signage and upkeep would entice more people to use it. Watering plants and power washing with some river water is quite resourceful. Information evenings and social media postings are no doubt helping to spread the word on sustainability locally. I hope the amount of LED street lighting increases soon, as per your wishes, and it's good to hear the local link bus service is being promoted and used locally. I hope the new bike stands and those existing at the playpark will be well used by more cyclists! For more information on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, you can visit irelandsdg.geohive.ie.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The 'Adopt a Road' initiative and weekly litter patrols seem to be working well for you as there was relatively no litter around on my visit. The bring banks at Drumsna Harbour were tidy, encouraging good waste segregation practice. I did notice a large black wheelie bin further down however, which was slightly overflowing with rubbish, however this is likely to be temporary. I note the bring banks may be moved to a less scenic location in your 5-Year Plan, which may be a good move. You are aware of the overhead cables issue, so I hope that you are successful in getting these undergrounded soon via Leitrim Co Co.

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

Cúirt Ní Fhearaigh apartments/houses looked tidy in the village centre. One or two yards beside buildings on Main Street looked a little untidy with weeds, although for the most part the occupied terraced houses look great. The community centre is well presented, which I mentioned previously. The housing estates at the village edge are neatly maintained and great to hear they are fully occupied.

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

The approach roads into Drumsna were found to be very tidy and well maintained. The markings on the roads were generally quite clear, in particular those recently done near the playground. The Padraig MacGiolla sign is maintained well but the flowerpot here contained dying flowers. Regarding signage, the blue placename signs look quite well but I noted the planted bed under the one on the Roscommon side also contained dying flowers. The 2007 'Pride of Place' sign is a bit damaged and its flowerbed needed a little attention, while the brown R. Shannon sign is faded and needs repair/replacing. I liked the old green heritage signs dotted around the village. The old bridge is lovely here with a glorious view over the river. The hanging baskets also add some colour and I note they are of the self-watering kind. Works to the N4 should also enhance the road surfaces further along here.

Concluding Remarks:

Drumsna is a beautiful little village with lots of history attached and numerous points of interest. There are some lovely old buildings present, a few of which would benefit from renovation, but you are trying to address this. There are quite a few projects being maintained but there is even more potential to improve in this little village. I look

forward to visiting again in future and wish the new committee all the best with your endeavours!