

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drumlish - Droim Lis** Ref: **478**
County: **Longford** Mark: **343**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	47	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	329	343

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. Adh Mór...

Thank you for your entry and the very clear application form that numbers and maps everything that needs to be assessed during the adjudication visit. This assisted us greatly and made the visit to Drumlish most enjoyable. You have a strong committee and body of volunteers. Having a number of office holders in addition to active committee members should help to share the load and create opportunities for change and succession, when required. Your collaboration and communication strategies are clearly very successful and this was evidenced on the ground during our visit. Thank you for the lists and detail provided. It is good to see so many local businesses named and acknowledged for their support. You also listed some great tangible examples of how 17 years of Tidy Towns participation has benefitted the village. When so many members of the community do so much over long periods it is important to remember all that has been achieved

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

You scored well on this category previously and it is no surprise. In addition to ongoing maintenance, painting and power washing you have listed those projects in the built environment that were completed in recent years, those underway and those that need to be addressed. The building that is now the home of the Land War Memorial Panels is transformed, the panels are well executed, the finger posts are very smart, the new heritage trail signage, St Catherine's, the work at the Mill area are significant enhancements. A lot of hard work that has paid off handsomely

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You listed 13 areas under this category (one being trees) and most of them are maintenance projects, other than some new planting in the Mill Raised Bed Area and on the Longford Road. However, the amount of tree, hedge, grass and shrubbery management is significant, and it was all done to a high standard. We commend your ambition to stay away from chemical herbicides. There were already a few weeds taking hold on the day of our visit. Early intervention is the best approach here to avoid reverting to chemicals. You are blessed with some beautiful trees. Congratulations to those in the 70's who recognised their importance. We would suggest an audit of your tree stock and careful consideration if you plan to replace some and/or add to the existing trees. Not all species are suitable for roadside situations e.g. Cotoneaster Corubia – a stunning small evergreen tree, perfect in a small garden but not on a roadside

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

Another impressive category with many great examples of big and small ideas and changes that have an impact on biodiversity. As you know the biodiversity crisis is as threatening to our future as is the climate crisis and we need to support and inspire members of our community to be aware of this and to do more. The wildflower meadows at the rear of the town houses and St Mary's are great. The switch to perennials and insect-friendly plants like lavender and cat mint are important, as is the beehive and the signage. The course provided by Green Pine Consultants was excellent providing you with several resources. Among other initiatives you could start to look at birds and bats

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

Congratulations on your work with Ballinamuck which will make you the first town in Longford to complete its SEAI Energy Master Plan. This should equip you with the tools and know how to make serious inroads on sustainability/energy usage/waste etc. Your double skinned containers with deep reservoirs, your water butts saving you 40,000 litres of water, car-pooling, encouraging use of public transport – all great initiatives that make a small but discernible difference

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Drumlish looked very smart, clean and cared for on the day of our visit. Well done to all concerned on the hard work. Your listed 14 points under this category and it reflects the attention to detail that we noted during our visit. Clearly the litter patrolling and the big clean ups are successful. We did not observe any issues with dog fouling. If it is as you say, a serious issue, then your power washing is dealing with it effectively.

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

Thank you for listing every housing estate along with the main street and the village core and numbering on the map. This ensured that we got to see everything. Other than one very high rendered wall that could be painted we were impressed with everything we saw in the village and main street. As you say, one housing estate is a blank canvas awaiting the new residents' association to get going but overall, all residential areas are attractive. Continue to push for more tree planting and remember to keep a watchful eye on staking, tree ties and suckering.

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

Again, lots of specific information provided here making it easy to adjudicate and ensure that nothing is missed. Mary St, Mill Rd, Mill Bridge, Main St, Longford Rd, important junctions, etc – all looking clean and tidy, litter free, washed signage, weed free. Derelict building noted, frustrating for you but you must continue to highlight the dangers to the relevant parties. There is a change in attitude to these buildings so hopefully you will be successful.

Concluding Remarks:

Congratulations on maintaining such high standards for another year. This could not be easy with the rapid growth in housing and population. You have created a very attractive place to live which surely attracts more to the village. Undoubtedly, Drumlish will continue to improve, and you already have plans to focus on shop fronts next year and your ambition to compete an Architectural Streetscape Plan and have all wires undergrounded will be another great improvement. You also have a new biodiversity plan and soon will have a new Energy Master Plan. There are exciting times ahead.