

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Dromahair - Droim Dhá Thiar	Ref: 673
County: Leitrim	Mark: 342
Category: C	Date(s): 12/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	55
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	331	342

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. 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 application form and supporting documents. Your map was very well put together and made it easy for the adjudicator to locate the different projects in your community. The document demonstrating the process of creating your new 3-year plan illustrates the time and effort spent planning. Your excellent social media presence must help raise the group's profile. A committee of 15 members and 30 regular volunteers demonstrated Dromhair's commitment to the Tidy Towns competition. It is good to hear that your AGM is up to the general public, as this shows a high level of transparency and allows the whole community to understand your work.

You should be commended for your commitment to working with young people in the community and getting them involved in biodiversity projects. Tree planting is an excellent project that will benefit the environment for many years. The Waters and Communities project helps to highlight the importance of caring for water quality. You have reinstated your junior Tidy Towns group after the hiatus caused by the pandemic. It is fantastic to see this level of long-term investment in the environmental education of young people.

The biodiversity action plan is an excellent piece of work, and the adjudicator would like to wish you the very best of luck with its implementation. Over 40 years of entry into the competition is a huge achievement, so congratulations to everyone involved. Do you have any plans to celebrate this milestone?

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

The transformation of the Abbey Manor Hotel to apartments is underway. Seeing the change from an empty building to an apartment building must be very positive. Upgrading the former Breffni Centre to the new library and smart houses will enhance Main Street. Are there plans to develop the current library building? The adjudicator would like to take the opportunity to wish the owners of the Woodview Inn Bar the very best of luck with their reopening. Getting a business up and running after an event such as a fire is challenging. The premises of Siobhan's A Cut Above looks very well. The walkway to Creevelea Abbey is an excellent resource for the community. It would be good if the railing by the entry to the walkway into town were repainted. The streetscape is currently undergoing a period where many improvements are being made. Once these are completed, they will significantly improve the quality of life in the community. Have you considered identifying a location for public art, such as a mural in the village? It will enhance the streetscape and help to create a strong sense of place.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Well done for moving the trees from the boxes in the town to the cemetery boundary. It was good to see them thriving on adjudication day. The children's orchards are a fabulous way to introduce Biodiversity to the estates and encourage children to become interested in nature. Have you considered enhancing them by adding edible plants, such as fruit bushes or a communal herb box? Your flower beds are very well maintained, brightly coloured and nicely planted; the positive affirmations in the beds are a novel feature. Is there a story behind them? You have some talented landscapers in your volunteers. You have clearly embraced the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in your planting. The landscaping around the national school looked very well on adjudication day. Are the Tidy Towns groups involved in its maintenance? In next year's adjudication, please include more information about the park and how it is maintained.

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

Developing a biodiversity action plan is a considerable achievement, and you are commended for this. The habitat map is excellent as it is essential to know and appreciate the biodiversity that you have in the community. Another key feature of the map is that it highlights the location of the Japanese knotweed by the river. Have you considered contacting your Local Communities and Water officer to get some advice about eradicating it? The biodiversity plan will guide your actions in this category for years.

The wildflower meadow by the abbey is a fabulous resource for wildlife. The wildlife area by the library is managed very well and was full of flowers on adjudication day. It is an excellent way to highlight the importance of urban biodiverse. Have you considered taking part in the All-Ireland Daubenton Bat survey to see if the river is being used by this species? You can find out more about this survey on the Bat Conservation Ireland website. It is a great way to get involved in citizen science.

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

Seeing your efforts to protect the potable water supply and use rainwater harvesting is heartening. Have you considered developing a workshop about rainwater harvesting to encourage the rest of the community to follow your example? The Tidy Towns group have taken many actions to reduce the environmental impacts of your meetings. You have reduced the number of Christmas trees used in the village. Have you considered using the old Christmas trees to create a "dead hedge"? Have you considered developing a social media campaign that inspires residents to become more conscious of environmental issues in their homes? Examples of this could be how to save water or reduce waste.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Dromhairs commitment to good litter management was demonstrated on adjudication day with the almost litter-free streetscape. The "wish you were here" litter signs are an eye-catching way to highlight the issue of littering. The Spring Clean event was very popular, and many residents were involved. Have you considered running community clean-ups more regularly, as they can promote pride in the community and encourage stopping litter from building up in areas? The schedule you developed for litter picking is an excellent initiative, as it helps develop a structure that ensures that the whole community is covered. The adjudicator hopes that new dog fouling stencils will encourage people to clean up after their dogs. The bring centre was litter free and was enhanced by the use of planters.

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

You are commended for developing solid relationships with the estates and securing a representative from them to attend your meetings. The children's orchards are an excellent project that has the potential to be developed further in the future. The estates that the adjudicator visited were all very well cared for. Rockview and the Acres estates made an excellent impression, with the trees enhancing their appearance. Have you considered developing an initiative to encourage residents to wildlife-friendly actions in their gardens and common spaces? It could help to establish a wildlife corridor through the town. The playground and its associated amenity area were busy on adjudication day, but it was good to see they were all litter free.

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

You have taken action to get the issue addressed with the fence past Forest Grove, an update on this action would be welcomed in next year's application. The adjudicator acknowledges your commitment to keeping the approach roads poster free, as this kind of work can be a significant time commitment. The planting you have done on the approach road help to create an excellent first impression of the village. The Church of Ireland was a very well-maintained building and is an imposing addition to the approach road. The greenway has been enhanced by the flower boxes that you put up. The mixture of vernacular buildings on the lane ways are charming. The neatly kept verges help to create an excellent first impression of the community

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator was impressed with their first visit to your community. Your commitment to maintaining a Junior Tidy Towns group is fantastic; keep up the excellent work!