

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Drumkeeran - Droim Caorthainn	Ref: 636
County: Leitrim	Mark: 329
Category: A	Date(s): 12/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	41
TOTAL MARK	550	324	329

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, plan and map. The map was illegible as the photo you sent was blurred, and the adjudicator could not read it. You should scan a copy of the map with your application form next year, as it would make it easier to read. Your committee of 12 with 15 regular volunteers is excellent for a community of Drumkeeran size. The regular quarterly meeting and volunteer meet-up demonstrate your commitment to the Tidy Towns competition.

Well done on your sustained effort to incorporate young people into your Tidy Towns group, involving transition year students and the local primary school. Your work on the Sheena approach has enhanced the area and significantly improved the site's appearance. You have been entering the competition since 1969, a considerable achievement. Have you considered organising a celebration? Or, taking some time to look at everything that Drumkeeran Tidy Towns have achieved over the last 54 years.

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

The pavements in Drumkeeran are well presented and have benefited from the power washing. The street furniture also looked well after being repainted. The heritage centre site was well maintained; it would be welcomed if you could include more information about the heritage centre in next year's application. There has been a sustained effort to tackle derelict buildings in Drumkeeran. It must help motivate the Tidy Towns group when you see positive progress. The sculpture in the amenity area is an excellent example of public art. Have you considered identifying locations in the village that will benefit from public art, such as murals? A mural could help improve the streetscape's ascetics and develop an improved sense of place. The businesses in Drumkeeran are congratulated on their efforts in maintaining good shopfronts that enhance the community's appearance. The shop fronts of G. Clarke the Butcher, Forde's Inn, and Wynne's Bar were well presented and created an excellent first impression of the community.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Unfortunately, the adjudicator could not locate your orchard site due to the blurry map. It sounds like a fantastic resource for the community. Have you considered adding edible plantings, such as currant bushes or a public herb box? Your commitment to No May is noted favourably by the adjudicator. It is good to hear that this also included awareness-raising activities with the residents. The grounds of Lough Allen College are neatly managed. Your application referenced planting wildflower seeds; these wildflowers often contain species not native to Ireland. It is

better to address these areas in such a way that allows native flowers to recolonise. There is some excellent advice on how to do this on the pollinators. i.e. website. The church's flower bed could have some of the planting refreshed. The amenity area was very well cared for green space and must have an excellent amenity value for residents. Have you considered adding some low-growing planting at the car park entryway? Your planting efforts have helped to add bright colours that have helped to enhance the community. The planter from the health centre looked particularly good. The cherry trees look beautiful and must brighten up the community when they flower.

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

Drumkeeran Tidy Towns have undertaken a lot of awareness-raising activities that are relevant to this category. Please include more detailed information about this category in next year's application form. The plan to develop a new biodiversity hub in the amenity area is an excellent project that will enhance the recreational value of this area. The amenity area has beautiful views of the surrounding drumlins and countryside. It would be essential to ensure that these views are not obscured. The students have made bird boxes from scrap timber, which have been put up around the village. Do you monitor these bird boxes to ensure they are in locations that birds can safely use?

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

The shop in Drumkeeran has embraced the concept of reducing waste through its actions at the deli counter. The tuck shop in the college has given a discount to students who use reusable cups, and the Tidy Towns group have supported this action by donating cups to the school. Clarke's butchers act as a collection point for old phones and batteries. Regular events in the village promote the reduce, reuse and recycle concept and the circular economy. The old courthouse has been renovated and now uses a heat pump. All these excellent actions will help to promote sustainability in the community. However, providing more information about these actions in your application form would be beneficial. If you are looking for more inspiration in this category, the Tidy Towns handbook is an excellent resource.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Drumkeeran was almost litter-free on adjudication day, so you are congratulated on your excellent litter management. The only littering that the adjudicator spotted was by the playground. Adopting a road scheme must be very successful, and it is good to see that the youth club and transition year are involved in litter management. You also work closely with local businesses for their presentation. Do you participate in large community clean-ups, some as Spring Clean? Participation in these events promotes a sense of pride and actively encourages participants to remain involved in litter management. Your sustained effort to improve the appearance of street furniture and paths in the community has helped to create an excellent first impression of Drumkeeran.

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

There is an ongoing issue with dereliction, which is something other than what the Tidy Towns committee can be responsible for. The plans to paint the buildings will help enhance the community. However, many residents are doing their best to maintain their properties. The housing area by the church is making an excellent effort to improve the site by landscaping the entrance and using available space to its advantage. The estate beside St. Bridget's National School was also very well presented. Some of the housing estates in the community need nameplates. It would be very positive if you could work with residents to rectify this issue. There were some estates that had a lot of empty houses on the road to the council depot. However, a lot of care has gone into maintaining their appearances, and the adjudicator appreciated the neatly mown green areas in these estates.

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

Lough Allen College dominates the R200 approach, it is nicely landscaped, and the school fits the surrounding landscape. The adjudicator would be interested to find out if the school is taking any actions to manage its grounds for wildlife. St. Brigid Church is also on this approach road; it is set back from the road, and its elevated location means it is a valuable landmark. Are the Tidy Towns groups involved in its upkeep? The planting outside of the church could do with refreshing as some have become woody. The planting by the amenity area on the Drumshambo approach road was excellent. The damask roses enhanced the approach to the village from St. Brigid Church. The amenity area and playground are a positive enhancement to the approach road. On the day of adjudication, the grass was being cut. The new footpath benefits the overall look and connectivity of the village.

Concluding Remarks:

Drumkeeran is a beautiful village that the work of the Tidy Towns group has significantly enhanced. The adjudicator enjoyed their first visit to Drumkeeran. Best of luck, and keep up your excellent work.