

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Drumsna - Droim ar Snámh	Ref: 428
County: Leitrim	Mark: 328
Category: B	Date(s): 12/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	323	328

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. A committee of 8 with 25 volunteers is a very high level of volunteerism for a community of Drumsna size. You have developed a committee with representatives from different village organisations. This structure is a perfect way to set up a tidy town committee as it makes it possible to draw from these organisations' broad range of experiences and get support from them.

You use a broad range of methods to communicate with the community. This variety is commended as it is inclusive and ensures everyone hears about your work. It would be welcome in next year's adjudication if you included the addresses of your social media accounts.

You have worked hard to develop relationships with young people in the community, working with the local, national school and foreign groups. It is good that you welcome young people to get involved in your work.

The proposed refurbishment of the tennis/basketball court is an excellent project to provide amenity opportunities for the whole community. The active travel native you are collaborating with Jamestown to provide a corridor for safe active travel is an essential project due to your limited on-road recreation opportunities. The Heart Safe Project is an excellent initiative that helps to protect the health of everyone in the community.

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

The old Wesleyland Graveyard is well presented, and on the adjudicator's visits, the gates had been freshly painted. The Church grounds were well cared for, and the mature copper beeches that flanked the church helped to improve the streetscape. Residents and business owners have made great efforts to maintain their properties. It is good to hear about your efforts to address the derelict properties on quay street. The Drumsna Resource Centre was well-maintained and very busy on the adjudication day. Drumsna has a unique heritage streetscape, and the impressive 19th-century building with its beautiful unrendered facade near the bridge particularly stood out to the adjudicator. The bridge is a fine example of a 19th-century masonry bridge, is the Tidy Towns group involved in its maintenance? Using public art to enhance the area by the old schoolhouse will help to develop a sense of place and improve the site. Have you considered increasing the amount of public art in the community?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

It is good to hear about Tidy Town's commitment to being environmentally friendly and no longer using herbicides and pesticides in managing green spaces. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an excellent resource for advice on managing green spaces. You have certainly embraced planting for colour and pollinators. On the adjudication day,

some of the beds on quay street were underplanted. The entrance and pathway to the old graveyard were nicely maintained, with the site being accessible and more extended areas of grass left for wildlife. You are fortunate to have abundant ancient native trees and shrubs around the community. Have you considered organising a public workshop highlighting the benefits of these trees? The plants by the church were very well presented. The People Orchard is an excellent resource. Do you get a lot of fruit from the project? The public herb box is a perfect way to promote local food production. You should be commended for the management of the green space at the quay, it is not overly managed, and this means that it is easy for visitors to imagine the quay's original use.

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

The river Shannon runs through the village, and there could be an opportunity to develop a wildlife corridor on its banks. Have you considered promoting citizen science in the community? Your application mentioned that you had seen bats near the river; Bat Conservation Ireland organises a regular Daubenton Bat survey that you may be interested in participating in. All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterways Survey - Bat Conservation Ireland
The biodiversity evenings you organise are an excellent community programme; more information about them would be welcomed in next year's application. The adjudicator lauded your commitment to not using herbicides and encouraged residents to do the same. It is good to hear about the bird and bat boxes you have put up in the community. Do you encourage residents to do the same? The adjudicator would like to enable you not to use bee bombs; these can often introduce seeds to areas that are not native plants and can become invasive. Instead, you can manage green spaces to encourage native species to grow or collect native wildflower seeds; there is some excellent pollinator advice.

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

Using rainwater harvesting to water plants is an excellent way to save valuable potable water resources. The adjudicator sees that you have started to use more perennial planting and can get expert advice from your local garden centre. It is good to know the use of keep cups in the community is being promoted. The adjudicator would welcome more information on this native. It is good that the National School has embraced sustainability and is working on the green flag programme. The use of preloved items as bingo prizes is commended by the adjudicator. Drumsna Tidy Towns has put a great deal of effort into looking at ways of improving the use of renewable energy in the community. Have you considered investigating getting involved in the SEAI sustainable energy community programme?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have gone to a lot of effort into keeping Drumsna litter free. The "Adopt a Road" scheme was an excellent way to encourage residents to get involved in keeping Drumsna litter free, and well done on your Spring Clean event. Your relationship with Leitrim County Councils Litter Warden has helped you to tackle any fly-tipping in the village. Your application mentions a signage survey that you carried out. Please include more information about this in next year's application. The benches on the riverwalk could do with some TLC. Have you considered using both sides of the notice board in this area? On the quay, the mooring bollards could do with repainting. The bring centre was very well presented and neatly kept.

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

You have successfully encouraged residents to keep their homes and common areas to a high standard. The estates in your community were all very present. Have you considered approaching the estates to take some wildlife-friendly actions, such as leaving areas to grow wild to benefit pollinators or planting some wildlife-friendly shrubs? There could also be a possibility of introducing some seating areas in the estates.

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

You have certainly embraced managing the approach roads in an environmentally friendly manner, which is very much in keeping with the rural setting of Drumsna. This helps to create a very positive first impression of the community. You work with the Carrick-on-Shannon Tidy Towns group to improve the litter issue on the approach roads. The approach road from Roscommon will benefit from the improvement to the signage that you are currently working on

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator would like to take this opportunity to wish the new committee the very best of luck with all your projects. Drumsna is a well-cared-for community beautifully situated on the banks of the Shannon.