

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Drum - Druim	Ref: 608
County: Monaghan	Mark: 307
Category: A	Date(s): 10/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	42
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32
TOTAL MARK	550	307

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.... We are delighted to welcome Drum's return to the competition. Your community is well organised and you work closely with the Environmental Committee of your Development Association. It is particularly encouraging to read that you have increased your membership in recent times and that you now hold regular monthly meetings. Your partnership with Monaghan County Council (MCC) is obviously working well and this is illustrated by your success in receiving funding under the Town and Village Urban Renewal Scheme. Well done on seeking professional advice for this aspect of your development. We look forward to the list of proposals and objectives contained in your draft plan, following your well organised and well attended series of meetings. We note the increase in population in recent years and congratulate you on successful integration into your community. Your engagement with your local schools is laudable and keeps you updated on the Green School programme. It is very encouraging to read that the school children are involved in regular village cleanups, the National Spring Clean, and that the teenagers assist you at local events. The photographs submitted were excellent, and of great assistance to the adjudicator and contributed to the enjoyment of the visit. The information / suggestion campaign was innovative and the letterbox at Stewards shop provided a high-profile location for this venture. It was indeed very encouraging that the residents response was so rewardingly high.

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

Evelyn Terrace retains a significant vernacular character worthy of long-term conservation. The refurbishment and re-generation here will be an important visual enhancement in the village whilst enlivening the core. Well done to all involved and we look forward to long-term improvement results. The conservation theme continues at Anderson's and it is encouraging to read that work is ongoing, some financial support having been received. Hopefully, we can have a coffee here on the occasion of future visits. Village buildings retain a charming vernacular scale well illustrated at both Stewarts shop and Andersons. New interventions should ensure that this attractive inheritance of your environs is fully respected.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The expansive maintenance programme is now a substantial undertaking and green areas, green verges and hedgerows were nicely maintained, while adhering to good practice. In the centre the Drum/An Droim sculpture has a prominent location and a good presentation set in a backdrop of mature trees. No doubt the Village Plan study will highlight the importance of trees and hedgerows to the various important vistas throughout the village and its environs.

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

The Wildlife Report produced by the Drum Development Association was full of interesting information on your area. The Biodiversity Trail contained therein, provided a wonderful guide for this adjudicator on the day. Both the text by Angela Graham and pictures by local photographer Barbara Stewart are a clear demonstration of your knowledge and appreciation of the natural environments in and around Drum village. The Gallery of Drum pictures, showing the natural and built beauty of Drum throughout the seasons, was also enjoyed. Attendance at Monaghan County Council (MCC) advisory workshops and talks, and the dispersal of this expert guidance throughout your community, further ensures the safeguarding and reinforcement of wildlife habitats.

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

Free local transport is a very welcome reduction in the carbon footprint of your area. Post Covid, it is also heartwarming to learn of the different ways that a small community looks out for each other in offering lifts, shopping and doing messages. Liaising with Drumcorrin National School is a good two-way communication and we wonder if this school has been involved in the Green Flag awards. Elsewhere, the harvesting of water, up cycling of feeders and the widespread use of the compost area at the old Manse further reduces your negative impact on the environment.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The development of a Village Plan with MCC will hopefully provide traffic calming and car park spaces to reduce pressure on footpaths. The village proper was completely litter free on the day. The walk to the lake showed a water pump, a lifebelt, and a 'What do you See' information board all in need of refreshing. There was also a small amount of litter around the floating pontoon at the lake area. Your committee is to be commended on your continued plan of action on dereliction. You have achieved great success in this area. We look forward to seeing the redevelopment of Evelyn Terrace in a sympathetic manner.

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

The existing dwellings located in the village and environs are well maintained and sit comfortably in their surroundings. As already mentioned, mature trees and hedgerows are a noteworthy feature, forming a mature and attractive backdrop setting and are worthy of long-term protection. Imaginative garden presentations were admired at various locations. The previously mentioned plans for Anderson's and Evelyn Terrace are exciting and the new colour scheme has already created a substantial visual improvement.

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

We note your contact with your local engineer regarding your approach roads. Well done on the careful management of the roadside verges to encourage wildlife and on the good practise you ensure regarding hedgerow trimming and cutting.

Concluding Remarks:

The working partnership approach is much in evidence in Drum. The proposed new plans will hopefully illustrate the vision that you describe so clearly for the years ahead. We wish you well on these endeavours. It was a pleasure to visit your historic village and experience its lovely atmosphere.