

# Tidy Towns Competition 2024

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Dromiskin - Droimineasclainn</b>	Ref: <b>492</b>
County: <b>Louth</b>	Mark: <b>377</b>
Category: <b>C</b>	Date(s): <b>03/07/2024</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2023	Mark Awarded 2024
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	42	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	32	34
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	44
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>377</b>

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

“Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu don bhliain 2024. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...” Dromiskin’s track record in Tidy Towns is impressive and congratulations on being a runner up in Ireland’s Best Kept Town too in addition to your success in Louth Looking Good, all fine achievements! The village looked wonderful on adjudication day with something of interest to engage throughout. The Skills Audit is a fine initiative and well done on the pledge of an extra 110 work hours. Perhaps most impressive of all is your fund-raising success and there are many fine projects in evidence as a result. A committee of 14 with a volunteer database of 55+ is laudable and the ‘open meetings’ is a great way to engage the wider community. Cognisance is taken of your range of digital communication methods in addition to your Newsletter and the support received from a variety of bodies and agencies. The variety of community events is imaginative and fun ranging from ‘drop-in’ afternoon tea to White Collar Boxing! We anticipate continued success with Ginney’s Pond Nature Park. Thank you for this year’s submission with its fine maps, Tidy Towns Development Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan and more, all helped the adjudication process.

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

The Village Centre is beautiful and there are numerous engaging features everywhere one looks. The small shopping complex with the Centra shop and retail services together with car wash and recycling point was beautifully presented and it was good to note the toilet facilities here for the travelling public courtesy of Centra. Both the church and school together with their respective grounds enhance their streetscape and the overall ‘townscape’ of Dromiskin; the AOH hall was admired too. Herity’s Bar and Mulligan’s Post Office premises present some attractive features at their roadside facades; the roller security shutters of Daniel’s Take Away are unfortunate in that they diminish the visual amenity of the streetscape to a degree; the sunflower murals on the retaining walls of the Linencare premises are a charming feature notwithstanding the roller security shutters here too! The main problem in the presentation of the streetscape within the village centre is the network of overhead service cables which are quite unsightly however street lighting on attractive lamp-standards and street furniture in general enhance visual amenity. The Viking Boat and Monastic site are excellent public spaces and heritage interpretation here is exemplary together with the Graveyard Mapping project. Flags and banners add a festive ambience to the streetscape.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

All green areas noted enjoyed excellent maintenance and presentation and flower displays and shrubberies were

thriving. It was good to note that the large green areas located across from the Centra complex were being managed for both biodiversity and visual amenity and hosted information panels. Congratulations on the completion of phase 1 of your key landscaping project in the school grounds, and well done on overcoming all the obstacles encountered. The Biblical Garden is a beautiful and imaginative creation together with the Medicinal Garden. Ginnety's Pond no doubt looked magnificent in the Spring with the bulbs in full bloom and the trees planted will serve an important function as they mature. The Heritage Park looked magnificent and congratulations on your 3rd Green Flag for this wonderful amenity. The landscaped area at Chapel Cross with its replica souterrain is an excellent introduction to the village at this entrance; seasonal planting continues to impress especially as much of it is pollinator friendly and landscaped areas are being managed without the use of herbicides.

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

Having a Biodiversity Action Plan to guide your actions in making Dromiskin a biodiversity friendly centre is an invaluable tool; we wish you unlimited success in its implementation! Work accomplished to date for the Ginnety's Nature Park Pond is impressive and we look forward to its use as an outdoor educational centre for biodiversity and environmental awareness. The new Feed the Ducks signs together with the Feeding Station and the Duck House are excellent and well-informed initiatives together with the stumpers, pond rules and related information signs. The Mini-Gardens located at various sites are a delightful feature and do so much to promote awareness. Habitat mapping is an invaluable undertaking and will reap great biodiverse rewards in the years ahead as will the partnership approach with the farming community, householders and the staff at the Animal Compound.

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

The Household Sustainability Survey of Dromiskin households and its analysis was an excellent initiative to guide the Tidy Towns group actions in this category of the competition. The range of actions undertaken as a result is impressive by any standard with initiatives from Keep Cups & Left Over Recipes to a Decrease in Tetra Paks and an Increase in Public Transport Use and much, much more! Perhaps the most significant outcome was the day long "Energy Exhibition" to inform householders of efficient energy use and the "Climate Action Pledge" highlighting 10 steps that could be taken to help reduce Dromiskin's Carbon footprint: it is noteworthy that although residents were encouraged to take at least three pledges most took in excess of that! In the light of these outcomes now may be an appropriate time to estimate Dromiskin's carbon footprint, even an approximation would be useful to establish how far the community has travelled towards becoming a Zero Waste Community.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Dromiskin was litter free during adjudication and it was good to note the absence of dog fouling matter also. A few underdeveloped sites presented an untidy appearance however they had good roadside boundaries and no overspill into the public realm. The footpath along the Commons Road was surprisingly weed-choked given your purchase of the new Weedex machine, however well done on not using weed killer! One sign for the cycling path was almost hidden by overgrowth. The regular litter patrols and Picker Pals together with participation in Louth County Council's Litter League and the National Spring Clean not to mention initiatives such as "Vote with Your Butt" to address cigarette end litter is enjoying significant success. It is interesting to note that alcohol related litter constitutes a large volume of litter collected; using your Facebook page to address this will hopefully bring about change. The monitoring of illegal dumping and participation in the Seabank Litter Clean-ups is favourably acknowledged. The maintenance of street furniture and signs is accomplished to a high standard. We wish the Tidy Towns group continued success in the implementation of Dromiskin's Litter management Plan.

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

It was a pleasure to note nicely maintained green areas to roadside boundary walls at many points throughout Dromiskin and most especially along Commons Road creating a very good first impression of the village. A surprising number of roadside boundary walls were weather-stained given the prevailing high standard of presentation of dwellings and their private open space. New dwellings on the old Ginnety's site look well. Residential estates enjoy an excellent presentation also especially in respect of beautifully landscaped entrances; Church View was admired along with many others. Signage at the Hamlet adds to its charm. The annual House and Garden Competition is an excellent initiative and the guidance document for setting up and operating a Residents Association is no doubt helpful to estate residents.

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

All approach roads leading to Dromiskin including entrances to the village with their landscaped name-plates and interpretive panels creates an expectation of a beautiful town / village ahead and the travelling public is not disappointed upon arrival in Dromiskin. Well done to the resident who has adopted the Commons Cross bed at this entrance; the Jacks Hill entrance was admired also for the presentation of its three beds. As noted above the cycle lane sign on Commons Road was almost invisible however the cycle path itself was very clearly delineated and well surfaced. Most road and footpath surfaces together with markings were good and car-parking appears to be ample for needs. Some stretches of footpath need refurbishment however you are aware of these. Side and back areas were clean also.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Dromiskin is a beautiful village with a multi-faceted heritage which is effectively presented to the local and wider communities in creative and informative ways! Good luck for the future.