



General Cleanliness

You clearly take a very thorough and strategic approach to litter and weed management which is like a well oiled machine – efficient, effective and delivering the desired outcome. Kerbside weed management was to an exceptionally high standard and, despite our best efforts, we failed to find any litter whatsoever so we can only take our hats off to you for your diligence in managing this frustrating and repetitive task. Your Bring Bank site was spotless – units fresh and clean, good signage providing plenty of sustainability tips and a planting arrangement to add visual interest. Additional recycling opportunities are provided on site by your

Battery Recycling Unit and your well stocked Outdoor Libraries. The only suggestion we have is that you might replace some of the stickers on the units as a few are exhibiting signs of wear and tear but we'll conclude by saying that we love the panels incorporating children's art work which are on view, in a high profile location, beside the units.

Landscaping Works and Floral Displays

The standard and variety of planting suggests that you have a great horticultural knowledge in your team delivering a successful mix of pollinator friendly planting as well as displays chosen for more dramatic impact. What we





it was lovely to see the three Monk silhouettes also incorporated into the finished product and highlighting an attention to detail that is very evident throughout your entire work programme. Siul na Manach seamlessly links the Heritage Park with Ginney's Pond Nature Park and we have to say that the work that has been done to transform a previously neglected,

witnessed on adjudication day certainly highlights that landscaping, the creation of green spaces and enhancement of biodiversity is a strong influence on your work programme and, goodness, how successful you have been on delivering on your objectives. It is always a treat to see the provision of accessible spaces for outdoor walks and other activities so needless to say we were very impressed with your Big Ticket Project this year – the development of Siul na Manach Walkway really is an astonishing accomplishment for your committee and a wonderful project that has multiple benefits for the community. The Walkway is extremely well surfaced and fenced off with significant whitethorn planting undertaken and we love the fact that you so successfully incorporated a dispersed community orchard along the route with thirty five fruit trees sponsored by local families and acknowledged on decorative plaques on the fence. The main entrance to the Walkway is highlighted by a magnificent entrance feature crafted by the one and only Seamus McArdle from natural materials in keeping with the setting. Named in honour of your Monastic past

unloved space, into the Nature Park that it is today is nothing short of amazing – a wonderful transformation and an amenity space for all to enjoy. The park has been developed using the natural contours of the pond with no small amount of imagination and resilience evident in its completion. While you may say that it is, in many ways, still a work in progress, we can find absolutely no fault whatsoever with its current amenity value – aesthetically pleasing and fully accessible entrance, well surfaced pathways, attractive informative signage, grove of native trees, No Mow zones, well used Duck Feeder that finds favour with the feathered inhabitants of the park and the wonderful Swan sculpture crafted from waste material! We couldn't but be impressed with the new Mosaic installation which showcases the creativity of youth in the parish with the wonderful natural setting of the pond being a fitting backdrop to host this nature themed public art feature. A wonderful project! The Nature Park, of course, hosts one of the two Community Green Flags you have been awarded with the other flying high in the Heritage Park which is another charming public space shaped by the past and designed for the





future benefit of the community. A variety of interpretations, visual and audio, as well as sculptural pieces offer a window into past life and practices in the parish and is an invaluable time capsule of life in bygone days with a visit being a journey of curiosity with even the most curious mind satisfied by your stylish displays. We also admired the simplicity of the heritage themed and beautifully crafted seat which allows for calm and peaceful moments of memory and indeed we wonder if it might be possible to provide a similar additional seat to add even further to the excellent amenity value of the park? This trio of landscaping projects have provided interconnected vibrant social spaces for the community to enjoy and we are sure that your work in this regard is very much appreciated by local residents. Your collaboration with the school has ensured that pupils now have a wonderful opportunity for outdoor learning with the installation of your new sustainable Outdoor Classroom – what a transformation of this area with the former wooden facility having exhibited weather damage in recent times. The nearby Dreamtime Garden was looking splendid with great colour emanating from a variety of mature plants with clear evidence of the garden receiving ongoing maintenance in the weed free and nicely edged beds. The Buddy Bench along the front of the school is most eye-catching having been freshly decoratively painted as had the picnic bench at the Dreamtime Garden where



upcycled hubcaps and decoratively painted and beautifully planted wavin pipe cut offs create joyous visual impact. Upcycled hubcaps are also a feature of the presentation of the Incredible Edible Garden with its fruit trees and bushes as well as a series of raised beds planted and harvested by the pupils – a lovely secluded space for these young gardeners to work learning the benefits of garden to table food production. The refurbishment of the lengthy bank between this garden and the Biblical Garden is a work in progress with significant works complete to date. The sloped nature of the Bank undoubtedly presented some challenges but you have coped tremendously well and replanted appropriately, we are sure, with the expert landscaping advice available to you opting for a simple and effective pollinator friendly scheme. The five trees provide structure and texture and the planting of 300 periwinkle plants to provide colourful ground cover was a significant undertaking – extensive planting such as this takes time to develop and while it currently looks really well we suspect that its visual allure will be increasingly striking as it matures. One only has to look at the planting along both sides of the driveway to the Church as proof – this planting has developed into a glorious landscaping feature that is awash with warm, pollinator friendly colour. The presentation of the well surfaced and lined car park is enhanced considerably by the kerbed planting scheme to transform it from a purely functional space to a visually appealing one – surely a planting initiative that could be replicated in other car parks to increase their aesthetic appeal! Rather than despair that your efforts to deal with the box blight problem in the Biblical Garden didn't deliver the desired outcome you embraced the opportunity to completely refurbish this signature piece of landscaping. The decision to remove the box plants and replace them with yew, to the same bespoke design, demonstrates adaptability and willingness to reassess and change projects when necessary and we can confirm that the area looks terrific following its revamp. Another





very significant new project for you this year is, of course, the Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDs) at Centra – the second such project in your village to add to its green infrastructure. This latest scheme sees three trees planted within the lovely stone boundary wall at Centra with significant drainage systems underground, Castlestone paving installed and glossy black bollards in place to provide the boundary with the roadside. A noticeable project delivering positive impact and contributing to the village's aesthetic in a meaningful way as well as adding to its green infrastructure and sustainability. The container herb garden, also in the Centra Complex, serves many purposes – visually appealing, pollinator friendly and producing local organic produce. You make great use of what are often viewed as incidental spaces in a community and this is certainly an excellent example of this with the nearby Mini Bee Garden, Leaky Boots and Take a Seat features adding to the visual treat in what could, otherwise, be a nondescript area. You clearly have a very good relationship with the owner of Centra which allows you to avail of areas within the site for your projects – we love your new sculpture at the Outdoor Libraries which is a beautiful piece of public art the design of which is so appropriate to its location. Your new Reading is Dreaming with Open Eyes panel is a perfect backdrop to the sculpture and is an

interesting and thought provoking read while also being most eye-catching in design and sustainable in its message. The Crossroads Bed, which we have always admired, has received a bit of a facelift with some additional planting and looks even better this year with its visual impact elevated by the installation of a simple, but simply delightful, public art feature. The Credit Union Garden was looking splendid with many of the plants having more to offer than just pure beauty but also having medicinal and culinary uses as illustrated on your most eye-catching Notice Nature panel. We also admired the wooden pergola threaded with deeply coloured red roses, the vibrant colours in the planting in the Credit Union Logo sculptural piece and the No Mow zone to the rear of the manicured areas. The Medieval Garden, opposite, wasn't found wanting with its weed free and beautifully edged biodiversity beds, Heritage Trail main panel, Bog Oak Sculpture and Audio Unit providing a most engaging background to your wonderful monastic heritage. The Viking Boat is an iconic feature in the village centre and looks just as impressive as the day it was installed. The significant No Mow zone opposite Centra serves to highlight your commitment to biodiversity and is so well presented with mown paths through the natural vegetation and eye-catching signage explaining the rationale





for the unkmown areas. The tiered planters and high flying flags are lovely features at this location. An effective communication strategy is essential to raising awareness and celebrating your success so we were particularly enthralled with the new leaflet unit in your phone box information point which is a work of art in itself and serving a useful purpose in displaying your many information leaflets. Your window display of Awards in the Post Office window is another attractive and engaging way to share your success with the wider community and reminds us just how very successful you have been in recent years. The magnificent blue cypress tree in the AOH Garden makes a wonderful backdrop to the delightful Ring a Rosy sculpture with tree planting on the manicured green and wonderful seasonal displays providing a lovely contrast to the Wild and Free area to the rear. The Peace Garden, affording wonderful views of the Monastic Site, is presented to the usual high standard that we have come to expect. Your many sculptures have been crafted with exquisite precision by your master craftsman Seamus and we are delighted to see that you have recently produced a Sculpture Trail leaflet which together with your new Gardens and Parks leaflet is available in the Information Point to guide visitors around the village. You are bringing artistic flair to the village, one wall at a time, with your splendid

array of murals – the magnificent sunflower mural with its complementary planting arrangements, the floral mural at the Credit Union, the Cuchulainn mural in the school grounds and the lovely poppy artwork to screen a disused fuel pump. The complete refurbishment of your heritage themed mural serves as another excellent example of how art, when done well, can simply transform and give a great lift to an area – it looked terrific this year. The Animal Magic Sculpture and your Bee and Butterfly Gardens are well located schemes and while you clearly favour this type of permanent scheme your seasonal blooms on show certainly didn't disappoint and added wonderful vibrancy throughout the village. Your superb flower towers were simply sensational this year, luscious hanging baskets and container planting contrasted beautifully with your permanent planting and produced a vibrancy that would lift the spirits.

Appearance of Approach Roads

Approaching Dromiskin from any direction is an aesthetically pleasing experience with your hand crafted wooden signs announcing arrival to the village and planting in the stone enclosed beds providing a cheerful welcome. Jack's Hill





provides a particularly attractive arrival and while your lovely wallflower planting had gone somewhat off bloom the wonderful verbena added vertical interest with its tall stems topped with clusters of purple blooms that the bees were certainly enjoying. Don's Corner looked exceptionally well this year at its prominent location and provides a most visually attractive introduction at this main entrance to the village.

Individual Contributions – Residential/Business

While further improvements are possible there is no doubting that you have made great strides in this category in the last couple of years. The owner of the Public House has put his stylish stamp on its presentation and it looked great in its bold new colour scheme and boasting terrific hanging baskets which ensures it makes a strong visual statement at such a prominent location in the village. The busy Centra Complex was spic and span in appearance with hot spots of colour from vibrant hanging baskets and the new tree planting softening its appearance. Daniel's Take-Away sits comfortably in the village centre with the jewel colours of the floral displays proving to be the perfect enhancement to the grey façade of the building. The



Linencare building caught the eye with its sparkling white façade while the soft hues of the chosen colour palette for the Post Office building also looked extremely well. The residential sector is also playing its part – we were very heartened to see a number of boundary walls on the Commons Road had received a facelift – this makes such a difference! Church View, as always, impressed greatly and we also love the biodiversity planting at the entrance to nearby Bealach an Tuir. Inis Linn, while lacking a little in colour, was much, much neater in appearance this year with an absence of kerbside weeds and litter – the revamped planting at the name sign was very well maintained. The entrance planting at Ard na Tuire produces a very good first impression but there is scope to improve the appearance of the estate green. The entrance to Seabrook has been replanted, if a little sparsely, but we suspect that development is not fully complete – the For Sale sign at the entrance is a little obtrusive and untidy looking. St. Ronan's Villas presented in a neat and tidy manner and, while slightly outside the lower speed limit area, The Hamlet and Commons Grove make an important contribution as a result of the high standard of maintenance. Residences on Chapel Road, in particular, looked extremely well with some lovely gardens on view – we won't single out





any as we were spoiled for choice such was the strong visual impact. The duo of postcard pretty dwellings at Chapel Cross were as delightful as ever. St. John of God Community House demanded attention for all the right reasons and the Inis Linn dwellings that front the road looked terrific with wonderful colour emanating from roadside gardens and seasonal displays. St. Teresa's is another residence that was most eye-catching in appearance and, of course, the mature garden behind the red gate on Main Street is once again a showstopper. Container planting at the two storey dwelling opposite the Post Office was a lovely addition this year and the floral displays on the residence adjoining the Post Office produced luscious colour that couldn't fail to impress. You are no different to other towns and villages in that construction works are ongoing – in your case on the terrace of houses at the crossroads and while the necessary hoarding doesn't help visually there is no doubt that the development of this site is positive eliminating as it does a derelict site in such a prominent location.

Overall Impact

What can we say? Ceaseless energy and commitment has had a transformative impact in your community in terms of



visual impact, provision of publicly accessible spaces and, equally importantly, terrific community engagement in your work programme. Relentless enthusiasm and determination motivated by a ferocious pride in the obvious and continuing improvement drives your comprehensive work programme and it is clear to see that there is a wealth of knowledge and expertise in your volunteer base. The success you currently enjoy is a reflection of hard work and dedication over three decades and we can only wish you luck as you continue on your tidy towns journey.

