

Dromiskin Tidy Towns

3-Year Plan

2025-2028

LEADER

Forbairt á stiúradh ag pobail áitiúla
Development led by local communities



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Louth Local Community Development
Committee



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Welcome to the Dromiskin Tidy Towns 3-Year Plan!



This plan is to be used to guide the work of the Tidy Towns for the next 3 years. The plan was drawn up following consultation with members of the Tidy Towns group and a number of surveys undertaken in Dromiskin in 2025.

The plan does not set out to include all of the excellent work already carried out by Dromiskin Tidy Towns but to provide direction for the group over the next few years. First of all we set out the Key Projects - major projects that will have greatest impact for Dromiskin. Then we have a yearly schedule of tasks that will address all of the aspects of the Tidy Towns categories. Finally, there is a schedule of multi-annual tasks or ongoing projects and tasks that Dromiskin Tidy Towns will be required to address each year.

Acknowledgements

Dromiskin Tidy Towns would like to thank all of their tireless volunteers for their work over all our years of Tidy Towns involvement. Thanks to our many supporters, especially our residents and businesses and Louth County Council.

This Tidy Towns Plan was created for Dromiskin Tidy Towns by Billy Flynn of Flynn, Furney Environmental Consultants Ltd, with funding from Louth LCDC through the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme. The author would like to thank all the volunteers of Dromiskin for their help in making this plan.

Dromiskin: *An Overall Impression*

The approaches to Dromiskin are very rural and it isn't until the visitor arrives that the village comes into view. The approach roads are neat and tidy and the name signs are bespoke. Well-kept footpath areas give a very orderly feel although remedial works are required on the standard of some pavement areas. Roadside areas such as verges and corners are well-kept. A series of signs, heritage and ecological, leave the visitor in no doubt as to the detailed attention that is paid to the village.

While perhaps not immediately obvious, the built heritage of Dromiskin is one of the great strengths of the village. St. Peter & St. Paul's Church is an unusual Romanesque building and its distinctive Italianate bell-tower with copper cupola may be seen rising above all other structures or trees in the village. The disused St. Margaret's Church of Ireland building is around 200 years old but sits in the former monastery grounds. Here the round tower and the high cross speak of a long tradition of worship in the village. The educational heritage of the village can be seen in the 'three national schools' of Dromiskin. The recently extended 'new' school building, the 'old' school from 1927 that has many beautifully kept original features including windows and rain goods and the 'old old' school. Of this last, only some remnants of walls remain. All of the schools and the RC Church are within their own campus which is quite unusual and forms an important part of the village fabric.

The built and social history of Dromiskin is celebrated by the community in a variety of ways. There is a Heritage Park, informative historical signage and banners. Most impressive though are the pieces of public art that add great value to the village landscape. These include the Viking longboat, the souterrain and animal sculptures.

All of the businesses of Dromiskin are well presented throughout the year. Dereliction of commercial premises has not been a great blight on this village as it has elsewhere. The current businesses of the village are well-kept and presented. Great efforts have been made by the Tidy Towns Group and shop owners to incorporate community and environmental measures at the largest of the retail areas. Use of areas such as the Credit Union garden for pollinator-friendly initiatives underline the level of attention that is paid to communal and shared areas.

Householders play their part too and by far the greater majority of gardens and curtilage areas are kept and presented to a high standard.

Section 1. *Results of Online Survey*

A total of 30 responses were received as of 14 April 2025

1. What comes to mind when you think of your local Tidy Towns group?



By far the greater majority of respondents saw 'the bigger picture' when it came to how the Tidy Towns group is perceived. Nearly 90% of respondents saw the group as striving to make Dromiskin a better place in which to live. 63% saw the work of Tidy Towns as striving to improve our natural environment and encourage sustainable living. Approximately 35% recognised that Tidy Towns is inclusive and open to all. This might be an area which Dromiskin Tidy Towns might address in terms of getting new volunteer recruits. Very few saw the work as only litter-picking and flower-planting and only 2 respondents saw Tidy Towns as a group for older people.



2. What do you like about living and/or working in Dromiskin?



A variety of answers was received. However the most consistent theme was community. Respondents praised the sense of community and pride in the village as a key aspect. The quietness and peace of the village was frequently mentioned. The Pond was also a frequent feature that is enjoyed by residents. Several mentioned how pleasant it is to have somewhere nice to walk. The green areas and planting were also listed. Several respondents praised the key input of the Tidy Towns group into the amenities that they like and enjoy in Dromiskin.

3. Are you aware of the work carried out by Dromiskin Tidy Towns group?



The overwhelming response to this leaves the reader in no doubt that the respondents are aware of the work of Dromiskin Tidy Towns. Several made lists of the items, features or initiatives that they attribute to the Tidy Towns group. Top of the list was frequently Ginnety's Pond, the Greenway and the Heritage Park. Other items of Tidy Towns' work mentioned were litter-picking, planting, maintenance of green spaces and weeding. There was a heartening amount of praise for the group within the responses. It was also noted that the Tidy Towns' biodiversity work and pollinator areas have also been noticed and appreciated.



4. Of the 8 Tidy Towns categories, which 3 do you believe Dromiskin could improve upon?



It should be noted when discussing the results of this question that respondents could select more than one category of the competition. A very mixed response was received. Of the 8 categories, Streetscape & Public Places was most selected (65%), followed by Residential Streets and Housing Areas at just over 58%. Just short of 50% of the respondents felt that Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes needed improvement. A little over 40% said that Tidiness and Litter Control was a category that could be improved upon. Just over 20% voted that Green Spaces & Landscaping was an area for improvement. The remaining categories were voted for in much smaller numbers.

5. Please share any ideas for actions or projects within the categories you indicated for improvement above.



26 of the respondents made suggestions for ideas. These were quite varied in nature and scope. A recurring theme was dog-fouling and several respondents suggested that dog-litterbins were needed. A suggestion of a dog-park was a related idea. Another common theme was the need for a playground with several respondents suggesting the green as a location for same (although this is not feasible as it is in private ownership and inadequate parking is an issue). A number of suggestions related to the creation of more footpaths within and on the approach to Dromiskin. Additional litterbins were also suggested by a number of respondents. An interesting theme was that residents' associations should be more involved (and do more to get involved) in the Tidy Towns' work. Other various suggestions included speed-bumps, a bigger herb-garden and opening up of Red Bog as an amenity.

6. Would you like to become more involved with the work of Dromiskin Tidy Towns?

Of the 25 respondents who answered this question, 10 said that they would volunteer but not join the committee. Another 10 said they were not available to volunteer or join the committee. 3 said that they would like to volunteer regularly and a further 3 said that they would join the committee.

7. If you answered Yes to the above question, what activities could you help out with (e.g. planting, watering, litter picking, digital/technical assistance, DIY, events)?



Of the activities listed, litter-picking was given as the most popular answer. After this, planting was selected. Two respondents stated that they could offer digital/IT assistance. Two respondents stated that they were already active Tidy Towns volunteers. Encouragingly, several respondents said that they would be willing to help out with anything that was needed.

8. A playground has been proposed for Dromiskin. A committee made up of local parents would be required to lead this project, separate to the Tidy Towns group. Would you be prepared to sit on a playground committee and/or to organise and support the fundraising efforts required to ensure it becomes a reality?



The answers to this question showed that there is, at least amongst the respondents, a great enthusiasm for a playground for Dromiskin. Some answers were tinged with caution, calling for any playground to be securely fenced off, closed at night or monitored by CCTV. It was encouraging to note that a number of respondents stated that they would sit on a playground committee while a larger number said that they would actively support the project through fundraising or other initiatives. Several respondents stated that they would not sit on a committee. Only one respondent stated that they did not feel that a playground was suitable for Dromiskin.

9. In general, how do you think Dromiskin Tidy Towns might encourage more people living in the village to become involved with the group's activities?

Of the 22 responses to this question there was a large consensus that people should be made more aware of the work that Tidy Towns do. The feeling appeared to be that the general population of Dromiskin are not aware of what is going on. A physical leaflet drop to houses was suggested by several respondents. Others felt that more impact could be had on social media. Projects that involved the schools and school-going children were suggested as a means to encouraging parents to get involved. An event like a family day on the green was one suggestion. The playground project was recommended as a way of getting more people on board. Other suggestions included a plant giveaway, fliers and a village-wide Spring Clean-type event. A one-hour volunteer project was also suggested. It was interesting to note that several respondents felt that housing estate dwellers could be more involved. A regular newsletter, emailed out was one practical suggestion.

10. Please provide your name, email address, and/or phone number if you would like to be included on the Dromiskin Tidy Towns contact list.



Just less than half (14) of the respondents gave their contact details in this final section of the survey.

Section 2. *Key Projects*

These are the Key Projects for Dromiskin Tidy Towns for 2025-2028. These are the projects that will have the greatest impact on the village, its landscape and natural environment over this time. They are also the projects that will demand the greatest time and resources of Dromiskin Tidy Towns and its supporters.

1 Key Project. *Historical Video*

Community - Your Planning & Involvement

2025-2026

This project will see the creation of a video celebration of worship and education in Dromiskin. 2026 marks 100 years of St. Peter and St. Paul's RC church and 50 years of Dromiskin National School. The project will involve new and existing footage and photographs of Dromiskin over this time period as well as interviews with Dromiskin residents on the importance of these institutions on the life and development of the village.



2 Key Project. *Village Name Sign Feature*

Open Spaces & Landscaping

2026



It is proposed that that a new central feature for the village is created. The location for this is to be determined. It will include the village name and a planting scheme that will have both annual and perennial planting in strong colours.

3 Key Project. *Eco-Friendly Foraging Area*

Sustainability – Doing More with Less

2026-2028

This project will see the creation of a foraging area including Fruit and Nut Trees and Bushes. The proposed site is owned by Louth County Council and is adjacent the animal welfare facility the focus will be on providing food for bees and on other pollinators.

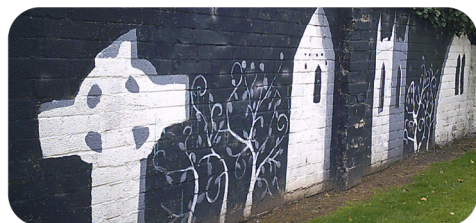


4 Key Project. *Dromiskin Street Art*

Streetscape & Public Places

2025-2028

This ambitious project will see the creation of a number of novel pieces of street art for Dromiskin. The Tidy Towns group will seek out suitable sites for public art installations. Funding will be sought to support this project.



5 Key Project. *Swift Boxes and Call*

Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality

2026



The Swift is a species that has lost many of its traditional nest sites. The creation of suitable artificial nest sites is a most worthwhile initiative. It is proposed that a pole-mounted Swift Box with a calling device is erected in the Heritage Park. A licence will be sought from National Parks and Wildlife Service to operate the call.

6 Key Project. *Energy Masterplan for Dromiskin*

Sustainability – Doing More with Less

2025-2028

Dromiskin Tidy Towns will apply to SEAI for funding to devise the first Energy Masterplan for the village. The masterplan will quantify the energy status of the village to determine energy demand. It will also identify existing and potential renewable energy sources. It will also address areas where energy efficiencies may be improved. The masterplan will allow for a number of energy creation and saving projects to be planned and carried out.



7 Key Project.

AOH Hall Window Displays

Streetscape & Public Places

2025-2026 and ongoing

It is proposed that the window spaces of AOH Hall be used as an 'outdoor gallery.' The pieces displayed here could be by local artists, photographers or classes. Themed exhibitions could be created and interpretative material placed for visitors. Local information / research pieces (e.g. on green infrastructure, townland name origins) could form parts of mini-exhibitions. Consideration is to be given to using QR codes on the pieces providing links to the website where more detailed information would be provided.



8 Key Project.

Estimate of Carbon Neutral Targets

Sustainability – doing more with less

2027-2028



This is an example of a project that will arise from the Energy Masterplan (above). Dromiskin Tidy Towns will devise an extensive survey of domestic, business and transport sector energy demands and will calculate CO2 emissions. This will be compared to renewable energy sources for the devising of target dates for achieving energy neutrality in Dromiskin.

9 Key Project.

Sustainable Drainage - SuDS

Green Spaces & Landscaping

2025-2026



A Sustainable Drainage System (or SuDS) approach to managing rainwater will be a feature of our plans for Dromiskin. This will include the planting of street trees and other landscape planting that will offer opportunities to best manage rainfall while contributing to sustainable urban planting for the village. A row of trees in front of the Centra and garage is proposed.

10 Key Project.

Village Streetscape Enhancement

Streetscape & Public Places

2025-2028

Dromiskin Tidy Towns will lobby Louth County Council to source funding for a significant village enhancement and streetscape improvement project that would include upgrading of footpaths in the core village area, undergrounding of utilities and replacement of lampposts with heritage-style lighting standards.



Our Plan

Projects Planned for 2025-2026

Project	Category
Historic Plaque: A stone relief plaque from the old church is to be restored or conserved. This depiction of a crucifixion scene may also be reproduced for display elsewhere if possible.	Streetscape & Public Places
New Volunteers: Dromiskin Tidy Towns will make the recruitment of new volunteers a priority for this year.	Community - Your Planning & Involvement
Winter Heliotrope: This non-native invasive species is to be removed from the Credit Union garden as part of a landscaping upgrade	Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
New Litterbins: Litterbins are to be sourced and installed at Ginnety's Pond.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Church View: Some of the extensive green areas of this estate will be managed as "low-mow" for biodiversity.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas
Pond Seats: Additional seating for Ginnety's Pond – to include wheelchair and buggy-friendly benches is to be acquired.	Streetscape & Public Places
Bee-Planting: Planting for foraging bees is to be carried out along the route of the new Greenway to complement the existing Community Orchard.	Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
Marley's Yard Improvements: This site is to be improved through the removal of debris, the planting of pollinator-friendly plants and the provision of leaf-mould cages.	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Meadow Strip: A long-flowering meadow strip will be maintained on the green at Commons Grove.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas
Railway Road: Dromiskin Tidy Towns will approach Iarnród Éireann with regard to improving maintenance of Railway Road	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes
Trees for Biodiversity: Planting of native trees to include Cherry trees is to be carried out at Ginnety's Pond.	Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
Decoration Recycling: An initiative to repurpose old Christmas decorations is to be undertaken with Dromiskin National School's and their Green Schools committee.	Sustainability – doing more with less
Litter Attitude: A litter attitude and behaviours survey is to be carried out online hosted, analysed and promoted by Dromiskin Tidy Towns.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Commons Road: The Tidy Towns group will seek residents' help with addressing the treatment of boundary walls of the Commons Road.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas

Dromiskin Gardens: A leaflet showing the route of a Dromiskin Garden Trail will be produced.	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Seabrook Trees: An unplanted corner of Seabrook is to be planted with trees – potentially fruit trees to be used.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas
Priests' Plaque: A plaque in memory of the priests of Dromiskin Parish will be produced and erected in the church grounds.	Streetscape & Public Places
Prize Display: A location for the display of Dromiskin Tidy Towns awards is to be sought.	Community - Your Planning & Involvement
Bat Event: An outdoor event to highlight bat habitat and ecology is to be held in conjunction with Bat Conservation Ireland.	Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
Anti-Butt: Dromiskin Tidy Towns will roll out an anti-cigarette butt litter campaign this year.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Mosaic Project: In partnership with Foroige, a mosaic will be created as a suitable feature for display at Ginnety's Pond Nature Park.	Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
Clock Sign: A new feature for the Heritage Park will be a clock sign which celebrates the diaspora of Dromiskin.	Community - Your Planning & Involvement
Village Crossroads: Improvement works to the landscaping at the village centre will be undertaken. This will include additional ground-cover planting, decorative stone and a sculpture piece.	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Seabrook: The entrance to the Seabrook estate is to be revamped with suitable planting.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas
Monk Figures: silhouette sculptures of monks are proposed for a suitable location within Dromiskin.	Streetscape & Public Places
Bat Boxes: Bat roosting boxes will be acquired and placed in suitable locations as directed by Bat Conservation Ireland.	Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
Bring Bank Upgrade: The decals on the bottle banks at the recycling area will be replaced with new designs created.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Graveyard Mapping: aA project to map the graves of the old graveyard of Dromiskin will be completed. A new display for this information will be created.	Streetscape & Public Places
New Panel: A new information panel on sustainable reading will be installed along with a new sculpture at the outdoor library.	Sustainability – doing more with less

Our Plan

Projects
Planned for
2026-2027

Project	Category
Light Up: A section of the Biblical Garden is to be up-lit with some ivy cleared to allow the stone to be revealed. Solar power is to be considered as an option for this.	Streetscape & Public Places
Historic Photographs: A photographic collection will be gathered this year with a view to displaying this during Heritage Week.	Community - Your Planning & Involvement
Field Names: this is a heritage project which will research local field names. Signs will be produced to mark gates where possible.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes
Sculpture: A new sculpture (with bench) is proposed for the outdoor library site.	Streetscape & Public Places
Dromiskin Orchard: a 'dispersed orchard' project will be begun this year, sourcing a variety of fruit trees for different locations	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Looped Trail: A new looped trail will be planned to complete a short walking route within the village. Simple trail markers will be devised for this.	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Nature Walk: As part of the above trail, a nature walk will be created around Ginnety's Pond.	Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
Saving Rain: A rainwater harvester shall be installed in a prominent area in order to demonstrate this water-saving technique.	Sustainability – doing more with less
Sculpture Trail: a new leaflet guide to the Dromiskin Sculpture Trail will be produced, as well as an online PDF edition.	Community - Your Planning & Involvement
New Trees: Additional tree-planting is proposed for the rear of the green at St. Ronan's Villas	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Vape Recycling: A recycling point for used vapes is to be established with an agreement for collection.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Commons Grove: a portion of the northern extent of the green area here is to be managed for pollinators.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas
Bottlecap Mural: In partnership with the local Foroige group, used bottlecaps will be collected in order to create a new mural for Dromiskin.	Sustainability – doing more with less
New Seat: A second seat is to be installed in the Heritage Park.	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Daisy Chain: A Daisy-Chain Garden is to be created at a green area in the school car park adjacent the entrance to Ginnety's Pond.	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Green Surveys: Surveys of householders assessing climate actions and 'green-gardening' actions will be carried out.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas
Church View: a tiered bed- potentially a herb bed – is to be created at Church View estate to mask an ESB pole here.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas

Our Plan

Projects
Planned for
2027-2028

Project	Category
Pond Lighting: Bat-friendly solar lighting will be installed at the Ginnety's Pond pathway to guide walkers.	Sustainability – doing more with less
Green Wall: A 'living wall' project is proposed for the former Linencare site on the Commons Road and/or the Centra Complex or Credit Union.	Streetscape & Public Places
Marley's Yard: a new path will be created through this area along with scrub clearance and new broadleaved planting.	Green Spaces & Landscaping
New Footpath: The footpath is to be reinstated to serve the new estate at Main Street and Chapel Road.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes
Solar Box: The telephone box will be revamped and lit using solar lighting.	Sustainability – doing more with less
Green Building: a 'green wall' or 'green roof' project will be planned for a prominent location in Dromiskin as a demonstration of this technique.	Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
Sustainable Village: A sustainability audit of Dromiskin village will be carried out, addressing energy, transport and waste.	Sustainability – doing more with less
Windows & Walls Trail Leaflet: A new leaflet to guide visitors along the notable windows and walls of Dromiskin will be produced.	Streetscape & Public Places
Rath na Gloinne: Planting is proposed at the front of this estate in order to cover a bare wall.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas

Annual and Ongoing Projects.



These are the projects that are either multi-annual or will be ongoing throughout the timeframe of the plan.

Project	Category
Foróige Links: Dromiskin Tidy Towns will continue and enhance its links with the Foróige Group.	Community - Your Planning & Involvement
Greenway Maintenance: the Tidy Towns group will commit to the maintenance of our new Greenway including suitable planting here.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes
LED Lighting: The Tidy Towns Group will work toward all public lampposts to be made low-energy LED lights.	Sustainability – doing more with less
Going Underground: DTT will continue to seek for all utility cabling to be placed underground should the opportunity and funding arise.	Streetscape & Public Places
Cobble-locking: Dromiskin Tidy Towns is to lobby for pavement areas to be converted to cobble-lock where possible.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes
Greening Centra: DTT will assist the owner of the Centra Shop & Garage to make improvements to the overall appearance of the premises. These to include container planting at prominent locations, the addition of wall-mounted containers and climbing plants. Art-work may be considered for extensive wall spaces.	Streetscape & Public Places
Weed Control: the Tidy Towns group will encourage residents of Commons Road to assist with the control of weeds on this thoroughfare.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Tree-planting: DTT is committed to increasing the tree cover in Dromiskin and will seek opportunities to further this.	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Vibrant Verges: approach roads offer an opportunity to add biodiversity value to our roadside areas. DTT will thus manage our verges for maximum diversity and colour.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes /Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality



This plan was developed with the assistance of Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants.



www.flynnfurney.com



info@flynnfurney.com