

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromiskin - Droimineasclainn** Ref: **492**
County: **Louth** Mark: **396**
Category: **C** Date(s): **18/06/2025**
02/08/2025

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	57	59
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	45	48
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	34	36
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	71
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	46
TOTAL MARK	550	377	396

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór Dromiskin Tidy Towns. What an absolutely outstanding year for Dromiskin! I was genuinely inspired by my visit and the remarkable energy evident throughout your submission and in your village. Your achievement of Gold Medal status in 2024 was richly deserved, and this year's work demonstrates that you're maintaining those exceptionally high standards. Your strategic approach to community development continues to impress. The creation of your new Tidy Towns Plan, supported by 90% LEADER funding, demonstrates excellent forward thinking. I was particularly struck by your "Think Tank" approach in December 2024, analysing your competition results and brainstorming systematically. Your volunteer database of 50+ people with 1636 pledged hours represents remarkable community buy-in all ensured by a comprehensive communications strategy. The integration of all age groups through your Junior Tidy Towns Committee and the new Darver/Dromiskin Foróige Group partnership is commendable. I was delighted to see your success in hosting visits from other Tidy Towns groups - this knowledge sharing epitomises the collaborative spirit we love to see. Your engagement with newer residents, including those from St. John of God Community House and your Latvian residents in litter patrols, demonstrates genuine inclusivity. The celebration of your volunteers through the Appreciation Night was a lovely touch, and your achievement of consecutive Louth Looking Good victories shows sustained excellence. Your submission was comprehensive and showed clear alignment to the SDGs. However, it would be great if the projects were also listed on the map, not just referenced in the submission. Remember, us Adjudicators need to be stealthy when inspecting our towns and villages.

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

The creation of Siúl na Manach Greenway represents a transformational achievement for your village. This €121,300 ORIS-funded project linking your Heritage Park to Ginnety's Pond Nature Park demonstrates exceptional vision and project management skills. The complexity of securing legal agreements with both private landowners and the Diocese of Armagh, whilst managing community consultation, shows remarkable diplomatic skills. The bespoke entrance feature designed by your committee member adds a personal touch that makes this truly special. Herity's Public House transformation through the LCC Shopfront Improvement Scheme has created a vibrant focal point in your village centre. The new colour scheme and upgraded signage make a significant visual impact. Your Outdoor Classroom upgrade at St. Peter's N.S., using products from Irish Recycled Products, demonstrates both sustainability thinking and investment in local children's education. I really loved the addition of your new sculpture at the Centra Complex, indeed how this area served to highlight so many different projects from the wonderful bring centre with signage and a panel highlighting your work over the past 3 decades I acknowledge the ongoing

challenge of overhead service cables throughout the village centre, which continues to impact visual amenity. Whilst undergrounding would be extremely expensive, perhaps an Expression of Interest to the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for a Village Enhancement Project could explore options for addressing this in targeted areas. Remember, there is only so much you can do but don't underestimate your power as advocates for your local community. Finally, well done on restoring the water pump, a true indication you are proud of your heritage. Is the Viking Boat meant to have sails or hanging baskets?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your Biblical Garden refurbishment project represents exactly the kind of long-term thinking that marks excellent Tidy Towns work. Unfortunately I arrived at school pick up time so needed to be mindful of snooping around school grounds and take photos. I have no doubt this will be a huge success. Your Community Green Flags for both Heritage Park and Ginnety's Pond Nature Park make you the first community in Ireland to achieve this recognition for two volunteer-maintained parks - an absolutely remarkable achievement that demonstrates the exceptional standard of your green space management. I really loved the Blackbox AV installations - first time for this Adjudicator. Your Credit Union is absolutely wonderful and obviously a very active partner. The refurbishment of the Crossroads Bed and seasonal planting strategy, limiting displays to 20 hanging baskets and strategic containers, strikes an excellent balance between community expectations and environmental responsibility. The production of your Parks and Gardens of Dromiskin leaflet transforms your numerous green spaces into genuine tourist attractions. Your maintenance programme is impressive, though the pesticide-free approach means some areas may show fresh weeds between maintenance cycles - this is entirely understandable and actually demonstrates your environmental commitment. For me, a standout area was the pollinator managed area across from Centra with the trails mown throughout... truly fantastic.

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

This continues to be your strongest category, and rightly so! The planting of 1700 hawthorn whips along Siúl na Manach Greenway represents substantial biodiversity enhancement. These native plants will provide crucial habitat for birds, whilst offering nectar and pollen for bees and pollinators when they bloom. Your Walk & Talk with Éanna Ní Lamhna during the official opening of Ginnety's Pond Nature Park was inspired programming. Having such a respected naturalist highlight your pollinator-friendly plants and biodiversity information panels to over 100 residents creates lasting educational impact. The creation of your stumpery, complete with educational signage about insect habitats, has clearly sparked community interest with numerous small-scale versions appearing in private gardens. Your partnership with the farming community delivering the "Let the Dandelions Bloom" initiative along extensive roadside verges is particularly impressive. Having landowners agree to delay mowing until after May when dandelions have gone to seed shows exceptional collaboration and biodiversity awareness. The household-level biodiversity actions are remarkable: 87 households have eliminated or curtailed pesticide use, 53 have created wildflower strips, 59 have installed insect hotels, and 47 have added bird boxes. These numbers represent genuine community-wide environmental behaviour change. You truly are an exemplar in this category - keep up the amazing work.

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

Your Sustainable Urban Drainage System at the Centra Complex represents cutting-edge climate adaptation infrastructure. The €62,000 LCC Climate Action Fund project, installing three constructed tree pits and replacing 50sq metres of concrete with permeable paving, demonstrates serious commitment to sustainable water management. The installation of solar panels at St. Peter's National School, with real-time monitoring screens for the Green Schools Committee, provides excellent educational opportunities whilst reducing energy consumption. Your nomination for the county's first energy masterplan through LCC's Climate Action Fund shows leadership in community energy planning. Your Sustainable Duck Feeder at Ginnety's Pond Nature Park is genuinely innovative - one of only seven in Ireland! Clad in recycled plastic equivalent to 20,000 bottles, operating on solar power, and dispensing appropriate food in sustainable quantities! Definitely meeting both biodiversity and sustainability criteria. Your clothes collection days removing 2,130kg of textiles from the waste stream, Christmas decoration competition using recycled materials, and continued Keep Cup distribution all demonstrate sustained commitment to circular economy principles. The school's comprehensive sustainability initiatives, including book rental schemes, uniform exchange and 94% participation in reusable drink bottles, create excellent educational foundations for lifelong sustainable behaviours.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your comprehensive approach to litter management is exemplary. The daily litter patrol system with four volunteers assigned specific routes through your WhatsApp coordination shows excellent organisation. The 118 responses to your Attitudes and Behaviour Survey demonstrates serious commitment to understanding and addressing litter issues systematically. The engagement with Louth County Council's Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign shows excellent partnership working. The Community Clean Up collecting 76 large sacks during National Spring Clean, with detailed reporting and analysis of litter types, provides valuable data for future prevention strategies. Your Railway Road weed management collaboration with St. Joseph's GFC, St. Peter's AC, and Darver/Dromiskin Foróige Group demonstrates excellent partnership approaches to managing such challenges. Again, as with all categories, this is just the tip of the iceberg for Dromiskin. Well done! A few small issues noted during my visit:

- There is a faded section under the Dromiskin Monastery sign. It relates to funders, possibility of just removing?
- There is a faded sign at the Round Tower. Also some redundant poles in the corner of the grounds.
- There is bubbling on the Lane nameplate sign.

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

The footpath refurbishment at St. Ronan's Villas is most welcome. The new mural at Church View adds a wonderful visual addition whilst maintaining the estate's status as Best Housing Estate in County Louth for Louth Looking Good 2024. This achievement reflects excellent involvement from the residents association. Your Tidy Towns Ambassador Scheme continues to provide valuable liaison between residents' associations and your committee. The production of a Guidance Leaflet for Residents Associations offering advice on organisation, funding sources and professional support demonstrates your willingness to share expertise. The House and Garden Competition, sponsored by the Credit Union, is a wonderful initiative whilst also encouraging pollinator-friendly practices and wildlife habitat creation. Once again, keep up the great work in this category.

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

Your systematic approach to verge and kerb maintenance, with fortnightly cutting during season and delayed mowing for No Mow May, balances tidiness with biodiversity considerations. The herbicide-free weed management using your Weedex machine is excellent to see. Commons Cross entrance bed, lovingly maintained by local resident Don, exemplifies individual community pride. The addition of a bespoke seat and Viking Bird House, both beautifully crafted and donated to the community, creates a welcoming first impression. The maintenance of your name signs and bed planting at each entrance creates consistent, welcoming approaches from all directions. Your attention to interpretive panels, flags, banners and heritage trail signage ensures visitors understand your community's rich historical significance.

Concluding Remarks:

Dromiskin Tidy Towns has delivered another exceptional year that demonstrates why you achieved Gold Medal status in 2024. Your approach, combining heritage preservation, biodiversity enhancement and innovative sustainability initiatives continues to set benchmarks for communities across Louth and beyond.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was such a treat to visit Dromiskin to carry out a second adjudication – well done on reaching this incredibly high standard with all of your work to date. This adjudicator had not been in Dromiskin previously and has had a fantastic experience, learning all about the area and enjoying the many wonderful amenities and resources on offer in this small, rural town. It amazes me so much when a rural area can elevate its status and its standards and it must be so inspiring for other rural dwellers to see what can be achieved through good planning, dedication and commitment of a hard working community. Maith sibh. Locating the crossroads as a starting point, it was impressive to see how Centra have taken on board the Tidy Towns ethos so fully. With the tree planting in line with the boundary wall helping to soften the visual impact of the building, the locating of the bottle bank, the two library boxes and beautiful signage about reading, the picnic bench and the 'reels' of Tidy Towns achievements on one side and the herb garden, 'leaky' boots and mini bee garden on the other side, almost every category of the competition has been considered – well done to the proprietor for collaborating with you so effectually. Your greenspaces and landscaping, nature and biodiversity and sustainability projects are admirable and there are too many excellently executed projects to go through individually. Needless to say the mixed mowing area opposite Centra, the Siúl na Manaigh Greenway and Ginnetys Pond are of an exceptional standard, and though I almost missed it, the garden at Stokes Hill was also wonderful, (though a personal preference would be to have a different colour seat in it). Not only are these aesthetically pleasing and engaging to visit, they are also highly effective in their purpose. One could not adjudicate and not mention the viking boat, the tower and the Credit Union nature garden in this area – and the delightfully presented Heritys. This general area is chock-full of well-designed and brilliantly maintained projects of all kinds and I was particularly struck by the sharing of your proud town and area heritage. I enjoyed reading the Field names in particular on the local heritage board, Fadó, Fadó in Dromiskin. Your approach roads are enhanced with unique Dromiskin name signs and you have been consistent in the designing of all your information boards and signs throughout your area, ensuring cohesion and a sense of familiarity to a visitor – well done. Your planting schemes are thoughtful, colourful and beneficial to biodiversity. Visiting on a Sunday afternoon, the village was bustling but the area was perfectly litter free – all of it - congratulations and thank you to your hard working volunteers (one on duty while I was there). Dromiskin has a substantial number of estates as well as once off houses and it was remarkable to see such well-kept properties, gardens and communal areas in so many parts of the village.

From approach roads to the heart of the village and all of the amenities in between, Dromiskin is proudly and lovingly maintained and I wish you every success in the competition and in all your endeavours in the years ahead – you have made a beautiful place to live and visit.