

Dromiskin Tidy Towns

House & Garden Awards 2026

Sponsored by Ardee Credit Union



A note from the Judge!

I was delighted to be asked to judge the Dromiskin Tidy Towns House and Garden Awards sponsored by Ardee Credit Union and it was a pleasure to undertake the adjudication process and witness at first hand the many, many charming gardens and residential floral displays dotted throughout the village. I was particularly impressed to see the emphasis on pollinator friendly perennials in so many gardens with a careful selection of plants producing eyecatching appeal as well as providing support for pollinators. Another aspect that impressed me greatly was the number of gardens that included native trees in their landscaping to add structure and foliage to the presentation as well as supporting visiting birds. As Individual Presentation is an adjudication heading in the National Tidy Towns Competition it is very fitting that the green fingered residents play their part in the process and, equally importantly, are acknowledged for doing so in initiatives such as this. Finally I would like to congratulate this year's winners but to stress that there were so many more excellent gardens and floral displays that just missed out. I would also like to wish Dromiskin Tidy Towns continued success with their efforts and the very best of luck in the 2026 National Tidy Towns Competition when the results are announced next month.

Best Roadside Floral Display

1st - Brian & Martina Morrow, Chapel Cross



Exquisite window boxes and ground level containers ensure that this residence is a real eyecatcher at its prominent location. The combination of bacopa, geranium, verbena and petunia in the window boxes proved to be the ideal complement to the grey facade of the single storey dwelling while the showy blooms of single petal daisies in containers at the two storey property draw the eye to the alluring display of sweet pea underplanted with petunia and the attention grabbing window boxes that adorn the residence so beautifully.

Joint 2nd - Evelyn Agnew, Commons Cross

A tremendous display of profuse and beautiful window boxes light up the facade of this residence with the richly coloured petunia and begonia demanding attention for all the right reasons. This opulent seasonal display proved to be the ideal complement to the delightful informal wildflower planting and variegated holly, common holly and cherry blossom trees in the garden.



Joint 2nd - Liam & Alison Mc Gailey, Chapel Cross



This pretty as a picture residence was charm personified once again this year with its delicate pink facade embellished with four window containers of busy lizzie, bacopa and geranium to add summer sparkle to its presentation. Ground level containers of tuberous begonia added further hotspots of colour to ensure that this traditional residence is, as always, a real

attention grabber at its prominent location.

3rd - Ernesto and Una Silclir, Inis Linn, Commons Road

Hanging baskets of busy lizzie put on a great summer show at this two storey residence on a key approach to the village. This charming seasonal display was further enhanced by window boxes of sparkling begonia and petunia with the splendid presentation completed by the ground level containers of hydrangea and begonia to ensure that this property makes a positive contribution to the visual amenity of the village.



Best Housing Estate Floral Display

1st - Gerry Mc Ardle 29 Church View



The flamboyant blooms of opulent begonia, in a wide range of radiant colours, put on a phenomenal display that would stop one in their tracks. Containers of various shapes and sizes, many upcycled, host the dramatic floral displays with an ornate lighting standard also hosting two hanging baskets and wall containers bursting with vibrancy from a combination of begonia and contrasting lobelia. The soothing sound of water from a water feature was a lovely contrast to the razzle dazzle of the mind boggling array of seasonal blooms.

2nd - Toner Family, 15 Church View



This residence is very easy on the eye with its countless floral displays producing exquisite summer colour. Window boxes of glorious petunia adorn both levels of the house with displays of multi coloured begonia on the wall adding further glamorous colour. Two circular containers of glowing yellow roses added further strong visual impact with a container of geranium adding to the overall visual which lights up its location in the estate.

3rd - 43 Commons Grove



A bespoke window box adorns the bay window of this property to perfection with a lovely blend of colours emanating from a wide variety of plants that included catmint, lobelia, busy lizzie, petunia, dianthus and bacopa - a combination that worked perfectly to produce visual allure that complemented rather than overwhelmed the building. Containers of phornium and white petunia highlight the door and complete a really pretty presentation that stands out in the estate.

Best Roadside Garden Large

1st - Michelle Rodgers, Commons Road



With a garden for all seasons this property stands out for all the right reasons. A lovely Japanese Maple draws the eye to ornate seating while deciduous and evergreen shrubs in a planting arrangement were in splendid condition. Lavender, cosmos and buddleia provide pollinator friendly colour at the roadside entrance while container planting of campanula and verbascum highlight the door to the residence. A raised border adds further visual impact with fabulous window boxes of sweet pea, cineria and dianthus a further demonstration of commitment to undertake planting that is both visually appealing and pollinator friendly.

2nd - Sinead Torley, Chapel Road



Stunning mature trees are a key feature of the landscaping of this garden with cedar, lime, holly, eucalyptus, weeping birch and a weeping willow that hosts a hammock being particularly stately in appearance. A swing on a cherry tree is another eyecatching feature as indeed is the Belfast sink. A delightful seated area is highlighted by container planting and our feathered friends are very well catered for with several bird feeders spotted in this absolutely charming garden that never fails to impress.

3rd - Martin & Mary Byrne, Chapel Cross



A lovely blend of seasonal shrubs ensures that this garden catches the eye with strong visual impact produced by the vibrant fence planters that make a bold statement in the overall presentation. Window boxes of petunia, lobelia and begonia as well as hanging baskets of trailing begonia and catmint ensures a very positive contribution to the overall presentation of the village.

Best Roadside Garden - Small

1st - Philip & Theresa Meegan, Commons Road.



A small garden that packs a big punch from a quite lovely selection of permanent & seasonal planting that combine to produce delightful visual impact. Cotonneaster, a berried shrub that birds love, is joined by day lillies, anemones, variegated cordyline, cream hydrangea and photonia red robin to produce delightful understated visual impact contrasting beautifully with the stronger colours of sunflowers and nasturtiums

which were producing warm glowing colour. An ornamental tree underplanted with red geranium continues the colour theme of the window boxes where geranium and petunia beautifully embellish the house as do the hanging baskets of twinkling petunia.

2nd - Downey Family, Commons Road

A garden that always impresses! It really is a garden for all seasons with the early flowering berberis joined by a beautiful Rose of Sharon, crab apple, cotoneaster and a variety of stunning sunflower species. Border planting along the front of the house adds to the charming presentation, wall planters and hanging baskets add wonderful pops of seasonal colour and the attention to detail in the overall presentation extends to the planting of clematis along the garage wall.



3rd Place—St. John of God Community House

This container garden certainly delivers unique appeal in its prominent location in the village. Fence planters of begonia, lobelia and petunia are the first to catch the eye with bespoke planters incorporating horseshoe features vibrantly planted with begonia and lobelia to add to the eye-catching appearance. Window boxes and hanging baskets featuring busy lizzie, lobelia, begonia and nasturtium complete the very pretty roadside presentation.



Best Estate Garden Large

1st - 29 Commons Grove



A spruce tree, underplanted with roses and cosmos, provides a wonderful centrepiece for this garden where border planting of hebe adds further to the charming presentation. A laurel hedge provides the boundary to the garden with Japanese maple, euonymus, cordyline and evergreens providing further structural interest. A containerised standard rose provides a lovely pop of warm colour with window boxes at upper level on the house adding further colour to what is a really charming presentation.

2nd - 35 Seabrook



Cone shaped cream hydrangea contrast beautifully with red geranium and busy lizzie to produce striking visual impact in this delightful garden. A central olive tree provides height and structure to the garden planting and is highlighted by colourful busy lizzie at its base. Nice container planting framed the front door and the boundary planting of photinia red robin and variegated holly will provide lovely winter colour which is an added plus for this lovely presentation.

3rd - 24 Commons Grove

Deeply coloured pink hydrangea and forest flame immediately draw the eye in this garden where border planting of euonymus, hydrangea and ferns produce charming visual impact. Hanging baskets of petunia and trailing lisanthus complete this eye-catching presentation which is a real showstopper in the estate.



Best Estate Garden Small

1st - 11 Church View

This tiered garden never fails to impress with a containerised Japanese Maple immediately catching the eye and monbretia, hydrangea and penstemon producing great colour. A nice figurine is very much at home along the boundary hedge, planters on the wall ensure privacy as well as producing lovely colour and the barbecue area is a lovely feature in this small garden that delivers big impact.



2nd - 23 The Hamlet

Planting of deeply coloured hydrangea immediately draws the eye to the impeccably maintained shrubbery along the front of the house with heather, arum lily and lavender providing cool colour for visual appeal and, of course, supporting pollinators. Three superb hanging baskets of multi coloured petunia combined with charming window boxes of busy lizzie, begonia and lobelia to produce luscious seasonal colour.



3rd - 26 Church View

Butterflies feasting on a nectar rich buddleia immediately highlights the biodiversity value of this lovely garden where dahlias, calla lilies, devil red lucifer, fuchsia, lobelia and hosta combine to produce delightful effect in a garden that provides year round colour. Containers of hosta and begonia add further visual impact in this garden where the grass was in splendid condition despite the hot summer season.



Best Seasonal Display for Pollinators

4 Rath na Gloine.

Without in any way compromising visual impact seasonal displays incorporate the more subdued colours of catmint, lavender and bacopa to cater for the needs of pollinators. This proved to be a lovely contrast to the bolder colours of the petunia, begonia and trailing geranium in hanging baskets with the cool tones of containerised hosta adding to the overall presentation of this residence which stands out for its colourful impact.



Sustainable Garden Award

Peter Mc Cartney, Dromeenagh Road

This herbaceous garden exudes warm colour from a variety of perennials that include a large potentilla, heathers, miniature conifers, purple anemone, ferns, spirea, variegated holly, forest flame, fuchsia and hypericum with the greenhouse verifying its sustainability credentials. No bells and whistles required for this garden to shine - just a thoughtful selection of plants planted and maintained by a green fingered resident who shows pride in his place.



2027 Competition

Get ready for the 2027 Dromiskin House & Garden Competition. Judges will be visiting gardens in late July / early August with the Awards Ceremony taking place in autumn