



**General Cleanliness**

You clearly approach litter management in a very structured and logical manner that is delivering excellent results as the village was entirely litter free on adjudication day. A plentiful supply of litter bins is available throughout the village which, despite their functionality, are attractive in their own right with their heritage themed decals. Your Bring Bank site was spotless – no litter of any description, units and signage fresh and clean

and boasting new decals while the planting arrangement at the base of your Sustainability signage accommodates a diverse range of shrubs that elevates its presentation further. Your Battery Recycling Unit and two beautifully constructed and well stocked Libraries ensure that sustainability is a key factor of the overall site. The effective screening of the construction site in the centre of the village has transformed what could be a problem area into a feature that draws the eye for the right reasons – the Louth Looking Good photoboards, replica 30th year anniversary signs and fabulous art work by the pupils of St. Peter's N.S. enliven the green screening material at this key location. While







sculpture and nature trail signs – maintenance of these features clearly forms part of your routine maintenance programme. Heritage style banners and superb hanging baskets define the entrance to the Heritage Park where your Community Green Flag proudly flies – a richly deserved honour for the development and maintenance of this public space! While we

it is not overly obtrusive if we had one slight criticism to make, it would be that the Joe's Lotto sign is somewhat inappropriate at the otherwise delightful location of Jack's Hill.

### Landscaping Works and Floral Displays

Your creativity and resilience has produced many green spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy – the various gardens and parks offer space to relax and unwind and many are combined with decorative signage on your local and natural heritage. The latest chapter in the development of the Heritage Park is the Outdoor Clock towering over the traditional stone wall and illuminated at night, which is quickly becoming widely recognised as an identifying feature of the village. The Heritage Park provides an utterly captivating insight into the heritage of the village through the years with heritage, history and rural life very evident in the many interpretations all of which are of high quality and exceptionally well maintained. In fact we were hugely impressed with the spic and span appearance of your many signs on heritage,

know you have many more plans for the development of Ginnety's Pond Nature Park we were, nevertheless, blown away by the amenity that has been created which is a magnificent undertaking for your volunteers. Nature provides the most wonderful backdrop to your own superb work here which includes a fully accessible entrance with bespoke Corten steel sign, pathways, dipping/viewing platform, pocket forest, biodiversity signage in keeping with the natural ambiance of the Park, duck feeding signs, duck house and the recent installation of a stumpery and associated explanatory signage. There really aren't sufficient superlatives to describe how impressed we were with your work! The AOH Garden really is a delightful public space with the Wild and Free area to the rear providing a lovely contrast to the more formal garden as well as highlighting your commitment to biodiversity. Ravishing container planting along the boundary creates strong visual impact with the deep red of the begonia contrasting beautifully with the blue of the lobelia and indeed this plant choice and colour







palette is carried through in all your seasonal displays adding a uniformity to your displays that proves to be the perfect choice for your village. Your hanging basket displays are ravishing, container planting provides bursts of vibrant colour at many locations and your flower towers were well planted and coming into bloom on adjudication day. The Ring a Rosy sculpture, underplanted with cranesbill, to the backdrop of a majestic blue cypress tree, is a breathtaking centrepiece of this garden with a fruit laden raspberry bush being just one of the many thriving plants in your colourful tyre planting arrangements. The Notice Nature sign here creates awareness of the various species of native trees as well as recalling the many community projects undertaken by the school pupils as part of Eco Tribes projects over the years. Glossily painted red pumps, all highlighted by coordinated container planting, are wonderful features in the village as are your colourful Mini Bee Gardens which look great and provide sustenance for pollinators. The new Mini Bee Garden is perfectly located on the Dromeenagh Road and, if possible, looks even better than the existing three which are also skilfully constructed, captivatingly decorated and beautifully planted for pollinators. Traditional stone walls are a defining feature of the village with wall top planting on the one along Chapel Road well maintained and producing warm colour. The Credit Union Garden was looking splendid with its sublime



lavatera plant in full bloom, the sculptural piece highlighted by one of your statement floral displays, deep red climbing roses dressing the wooden pergola, all ground level planting perfectly maintained and edged with fennel, rosemary, globe thistle, ground cover geranium, lilies, daisies and penstemon all thriving. A glorious, mature Rowan tree was bursting with orange berries, a large No Mow Zone supported biodiversity and one of your Notice Nature signs provides plenty of information on wildlife and medicinal plants. The public space outside the graveyard, your Medieval Garden, was looking resplendent with alluring rose planting in shades of reds, pink and apricot stealing the show in the well maintained planting arrangements. The Bird's Eye View Bog Oak Sculpture has lost none of its charm and looked great framed by ornamental grasses, oxeye daisies and angel fisherman's rod. The magnificent Viking Boat stands on its own merits and is a defining feature in the village centre with so many sculptures throughout the village (masterfully crafted by your committee member Seamus McArde) giving Dromiskin a uniqueness and the fact that many are crafted from reclaimed materials makes them even more special. Heritage banners define the crossroads on traditional lighting standards and are highlighted with a number of your opulent hanging baskets. Lawlor's Peace Garden is a tranquil public space with a public seat ideally







positioned to take advantage of the views of the Monastic Site. The grass was neatly cut, planted areas were well maintained, trees add to the landscape, a well stocked Insect Hotel and signage provides information on aspects of your village's history as part of your formal heritage trail. Your sense of fun is apparent in the novel planting arrangement at Centra where your Take a Seat display immediately catches the eye with its colourful nasturtium and petunia, produce was thriving in your humorous Leeky Boots display, your Mini Bee Garden produced a buffet for our pollinators and your Herb Garden even included a curry plant among the usual herbs on view. A wonderful little area in the village making excellent use of space. The Map Panel is not only attractive but very useful in guiding visitors around the village to view the wonderful amenities you have provided. The Crossroads Bed is a terrific centrepiece for the village with its tree planting proving to be a lovely complement to the colourful agapanthus, lavender, lilies and heuchera. The Phone Box serves as an Information Point in the village and the extensive No Mow Zone on the Co-Op Field is extremely well defined and highlighted by bespoke signage. Tiered planters are also wildlife friendly as a result of the central planting of viburnum davidii and nasturtium just coming into bloom. Your bespoke flags were flying high while on Chapel Road your SuDS trees are looking very well to the backdrop of paintings of

local scenes and a number of your opulent hanging baskets. The flower towers at the entrance to the Church were well planted with your signature red begonia and blue lobelia which were starting to come into full bloom. The planting along the driveway has matured exceptionally well in a very short space of time, with some infill planting recently undertaken and really is transforming into a floral masterpiece that will have timeless appeal. The car park is a perfect example of the positive impact appropriate landscaping can have in reducing the negative impact of a large surfaced area and these linear beds in the Church grounds couldn't fail to impress with glorious peach roses, extravagant daisies, crocosmia and geranium combining to produce a radiant display. Railing planters at the school were in full bloom on adjudication day and your Boy Reading and Slip Sliding Away sculptures add to the positive impression of this location. Construction vehicles were on site on adjudication day so we couldn't access some of the school gardens but we are aware from social media posts that they are receiving ongoing maintenance to ensure they look their best. The Incredible Edible Garden was accessible with your hubcap floral features being a splendid example of active reuse of items, fruit bushes/ trees bearing produce and the beds planted by the pupils, one being a rhubarb patch, another a salad patch and the third a vegetable patch. The







Green Infrastructure Panel framed by large sculptural flowers is attractive and awareness raising in equal measures while the lengthy bed along the boundary with the Pond was home to ornamental grasses interlaced with catmint and sumptuous lilies that were just coming into bloom. The Purple Pollinator Patch was not yet in bloom on adjudication day but the buddleia plants in your Butterfly Garden were laden with purple blooms and looked great to the backdrop of your beautiful sign. The Bee Positive Gardens were just coming into bloom but already attracting buzzing visitors and across the road the Animal Magic sculptures are a masterpiece in craftsmanship. You are certainly bringing your own brand of creativity, beauty and artistic expression to the village, one wall at a time, with

your murals and decorative paintings which have clearly been planned with precision and absolute



attention to detail with the finished products executed to perfection and displaying creativity and artistic flair in abundance. The Sunflower Mural at Linencare is exquisite and made all the more visually appealing by the complementary planting in the well painted containers. The mural at the Credit Union is equally captivating and what can we say about the screening feature at the disused petrol pump on Main Street – an extraordinary transformation creating a spectacular public art feature and eliminating what was becoming a bit of an eyesore.

### Appearance of Approach Roads

All approaches to the village are marked by wonderful, hand carved, wooden name signs set in traditional stone beds of penstemon, lavender, red verbena and geum – a charming arrival to your lovely village! The three beds at the Jack's Hill entrance have been beautifully renovated with purple and red wallflowers complementing the centrepiece of verbena with the overall planting contained in elegant Elite Fence surrounds and demonstrating excellent use of colour, texture and height. If we had one suggestion it would be that you would remove the Armeria plants as they are somewhat out of place in this formal planting scheme and would serve you better in some of your other planting arrangements in the village. The Commons Cross is a key entrance to the village and what a great impression it makes







thanks to local resident Don who has "adopted" it. The aptly named Don's Corner is home to a Viking Longboat Bird House which has been joined very recently by a wonderfully crafted seat incorporating planters and the entire area delivers a wonderful welcome.



### Individual Contributions – Residential/Business

Despite offering potential for improvement this is certainly an area where you continue to improve each year. The planting at the roadside entrances to the neighbouring estates of Church View and Bealach an Tuir is a showcase example of making the best use of space and working with residents associations on projects of mutual benefit and really is a showstopper. Both residential areas are very well presented throughout. The entrance to Seabrook wasn't looking its best but this is understandable in the circumstances as it remains a construction

site and the planting is due to be reinstated when the construction works are complete. The residences recently completed look very well and the hedging plants dividing the gardens helps "green" the estate very effectively. Inis Linn was a tale of two halves with a very impressive entrance but no obvious maintenance programme in place within the estate and the residents should be encouraged to play a more active role in the presentation and maintenance of public spaces within their estate. The entrance bed at Ard na Tuire looked really well and the estate was neat and tidy while The Hamlet maintained its very pleasing standard of presentation and maintenance. St. Ronan's Villas continues to demonstrate improvement in presentation and Rath na Gloine also makes a very positive contribution. We are very impressed that all estates are clearly defined at their entrances by signage and coordinated





planting – such uniformity in presentation creates a very pleasing impression. St. John of God's Community House looked terrific with delightful fence floral displays and innovative container planting drawing attention to the well maintained property. Two of the most irresistible hanging baskets we have seen on our travels adorned the two storey house attached to the Post Office with the garden of the bungalow on Main Street looking splendid as usual. It is clear there are many green fingered residents in Dromiskin given the wonderful floral displays and superb gardens on view. The roadside properties at the entrance to Inis Linn looked great with terrific bursts of colour, too many properties on Chapel Road to single out but all boasting wonderful garden planting and the charming cottages at Chapel Cross were, once again, idyllic in appearance. Its amazing the difference a fresh coat of paint can make – the AOH Hall looked simply splendid gleaming in its dazzling coat of white and demonstrating effective use of Louth Looking Good photoboards from previous years as window decorations. A huge well done to your volunteers responsible for this transformation – no easy task! The Linencare building also catches the eye with its newly painted white façade. The Post Office building is neatly presented with its car park making a very positive visual impact – the cream picnic table was spotless and looked great to the backdrop of jewel coloured rose planting. The Credit Union building is highlighted by containers of purple lupins which were just going off bloom but still looked very well. Daniel's Take-Away is a beautifully presented building with the grey and black colour palette being most appropriate for its location close to the Monastic site – the luscious hanging baskets set it off to perfection. Centra, while being an exceptionally busy facility, was spic and span in appearance and adorned with tremendous hanging baskets using the same colour and plant choice as those in the public realm. The three new residences at Ginnety's site are completed and occupied since last year and look well but construction activity appears to have damaged the public pavement and we presume reinstatement works will be carried out as part of the planning permission? Herity's Public House was in the process of being painted on adjudication day and looks set to make a very positive statement in the village centre – it was certainly not doing you any favours in terms of presentation but hats off to the owner who has pulled out all the stops and delivered a wonderful transformation.

### **Overall Impact**

Your tidy towns programme has developed into something truly extraordinary in recent years and is masterfully and professionally implemented. One only has to glance at your 30th Anniversary sign, proudly displayed, to see the hugely transformative impact your volunteers, over three decades, have had on the visual presentation, biodiversity and amenity value of your lovely village. You are certainly living up to your motto of Proud of our Past and Confident of our Future – the future of Dromiskin is certainly bright as a result of your outstandingly successful work which others must surely look at with envy.

