

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DOONBEG VILLAGE**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>193</b>

## **Doonbeg, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for submitting your development plan which is well thought out and filled with practical suggestions for improvements. You now have a great opportunity to make further progress on a phased programme and your success in liaising closely is not only beneficial but praiseworthy. It is obvious, even since last year, that more and more people seem to be backing you in your endeavours. It is also heartening to observe that ongoing work is not limited to FAS workers as many members of the community were observed painting during adjudication day.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The public buildings looked well again this year and the church and environs present a great introduction to the village from the Kilkee approach. Further back the G.A.A. complex sets the scene for a village well presented. The commercial buildings in the village are very well presented and most have very colourful displays of tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets. The Post Office, Old Kitchen Restaurant and Information are excellent - just to mention a few. Indeed the presentations of buildings is one of your strong points and the practice of regular painting is commendable. The Garda Station, though now closed, should be presented to a higher standard given that it is so near the village core. The building beside the Telecom Station is very untidy and the corrugated asbestos roof needs painting. Also two unoccupied houses opposite Lake View are very unsightly from the rear in particular. Could these be given a face lift for 1998. Some farm gates near the village should be painted a strong colour.

### **LANDSCAPING**

You have scored well again in this section and the extra landscaping developments further enhance the village. The work of previous years is well maintained. Grass cutting is good this year and the amenity areas at the Telecom Kiosks and at the river side are excellent. Many boundary walls have been freshly painted and add colour to the overall landscaping effects of the village.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You have gone about promoting wildlife in a correct way and liaising with the experts will have beneficial effects for the committee and for the wildlife. You are well positioned to earn extra marks under this section.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

With very few exceptions litter control was very good, with none apparent in the village centre. There is obviously a concerted effort to control litter and litter bins are well spaced and well

maintained.

## **TIDINESS**

The untidiness observed is similar to last year - mostly caused by unattended small open spaces and occasional boundary walls in need of attention. In some areas where road surfacing does not extend to boundary walls untidiness is caused. The clean up at the cemetery and the treatment of the boundary wall is acknowledged and has improved this area. The entrance to the Caravan Park is poor and could with little effort be improved. The Park itself lacks colour and the previous efforts (e.g. flower tubs) need replacing. Some dumping of rubble is taking place near the riverside seating area, but one assumes this is temporary.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The colour of commercial buildings is well matched by those of private houses and some excellent individual efforts were observed. The houses at Lake View are well presented and the residents were painting boundary walls at the back of the houses during adjudication day. Station View and Tara Cottage have some weed growth outside the boundary walls that needs attention.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Road surface throughout is good and many side entrances have improved, especially the house beside the Post Office. The road opposite Lake View houses leading to a cul de sac gives, on returning, a very untidy view of some of the houses back areas. The competition now extends to all parts of the village. Signage has been well presented with many poles getting recent treatment. The two speed limit poles below the Post Office approach need painting.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village looked really attractive on a fine July day and projects an image of active community spirit. Your task as a committee is to keep the pace going, tackle the outlined black spots and keep to your plan. You also need to retain the rural ethos of the village and exploit the natural landscaping of the river bridge area to good effect. You also have some attractive wild flower displays on the hedgerow on the Milltown Malbay approach that should be protected and avoid excessive trimming. Well done.