

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DOOCHARY**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	204

Doochary, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your development plan is impressive - assuming that you proceed with it, the village and its neighbourhood should benefit with it. The profile of tourists has altered in recent years: far more are now engaging in walks to places of environmental and historic significance, attending traditional music sessions and generally taking an educated interest in the places they visit. Doochary would seem well situated to serve this trend. It would be well worth your while making a detailed 3 or 5 year Development Plan, setting out annual targets for each project and not trying to do everything at once. Your mark in the Tidy Towns is now well above the average for the county - congratulations on the effort. On your map next year, please mark and name all sites where improvements have occurred over the previous twelve months.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church is a superb building and very well maintained; at the date of adjudication its boundary wall needed painting. Colaiste Chonail needs urgent attention as mentioned by last year's adjudicator. The business premises throughout the village are bright and smart. A long range of stone houses at the rear of the attractive B&B is in fact a very distinguished building though it is not in good condition at present: it might convert to holiday homes, or a hostel; if so, it would be important to retain its original appearance as much as possible.

LANDSCAPING

The public garden near the bridge is potentially good, but was somewhat spoilt by weeds. The new tree planting at McDermott's is excellent. The picnic area by the river is pleasant.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Not a great deal seems to have been achieved under this heading. There are a number of suggestions in the Tidy Towns booklet which may be helpful. Your proposal for a Wildlife park along the river is very much in the right spirit and this will be looked forward to.

LITTER CONTROL

This seemed to have been coped with better this year than

last. Unfortunately it is something which needs constant surveillance.

TIDINESS

The centre of the village is very well kept. Cement block walls near the school are in poor repair and have an untidy effect. Weeds seem to be a general problem - noted earlier under Landscaping and the area beyond the trees at McDermott's was overgrown at the time of adjudication. There are some untidy structures on the Churchill road. All these may be minor in themselves, but they give a poor overall impression when it is seen how well the majority of properties can be looked after.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private homes are looked after with pride. New housing in the village centre is in keeping with existing design. A few houses near the church are not so well maintained as most. It is hoped that the new housing will be designed to conform with local building traditions.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are unusually good. The car park at the church is clean, but is rather bleak and could do with some planting - creepers on the walls, for example. New pavements were favourably noted. The stone walls are excellent on the Churchill road and at Tobar Sorca and good wooden fencing was seen elsewhere. (As a rule of thumb, concrete block walls and post-and-wire fencing should be avoided).

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A most pleasing village in truly beautiful countryside. The aim should be to retain what is best and only to encourage new development which respects the traditions of the neighbourhood.