

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DONERAILE**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	37
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	19	20
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	5	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Doneraile, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

An overall development plan is needed as a priority for the future development of the town. There are many projects that could improve the town and by assembling all the information, consulting with all the groups and interested parties in the town a set of plans can be proposed which could be the blueprint for directing efforts over the coming years. The plan could be revised as necessary when progress is reviewed. Doneraile has the great advantage of the adjacent wildlife park and the river as well as a fine array of buildings in the main street. All these need to be capitalised upon in a new fresh approach.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Creagh House and the adjoining former residence of Canon Sheehan are very fine buildings and appear well on the streetscape. The buildings behind these – old school and convent need attention. It would be nice to see old schools rejuvenated and used for other purposes. The rectangular building next to the river is very unsightly and a solution is needed for this. The national school is beautifully presented with attractive planting looking well at present. The nearby building for sale – hopefully this will evolve into a new and interesting use. Along the street there are a variety of buildings some looking well others in need of decoration. The committee might make an inventory of street premises categorising them into – good, moderate and needing attention. The three storey buildings are interesting and indeed there is interesting variety in the housing styles. The mural needs a little redoing and the dilapidated building across the road from this really needs urgent attention. The old petrol station also needs to be dealt with on the Fermoy road. The walled entrance to the playing pitches is attractive and such stone walls give a great character to a site. Doneraile House will become an important building when the work is complete. Church and grounds were looking very well.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The provision of planted containers – baskets, tubs and window boxes is a great contribution to the town. They looked especially good in Oliver Plunket place. Some on the main street looked very well too. Some of the poles that support these baskets were broken and they could be repaired or removed at this stage.

The mature trees of the Doneraile estate play an important part of the background to the town and so benefit is obtained. The entrance to the Wildlife park and the Golf Club looked well. Work on the roadsides of maintenance and development

was noted. The grotto is very impressive. Individual gardens play a very important part in the appearance of the entire landscape of the town and homeowners who make good efforts in this regard benefit the entire town. The cemetery is kept very well and is a credit to those concerned. A number of the trees on the main street are dead and their remains are imprisoned by the metal tree guards. Future roadside plantings could consist of upright forms of Mountain Ash or Hornbeam for example. Some tree planting at the riverside areas would help alleviate difficulties there.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Wildlife park offers great potential in this regard . The yard inside the gate of the entrance presumably is only temporary while work is in progress. The carpark, waterside walks and woodland walks are very attractive and provide great interest. The absence of directional signs – other than the forbidding sign warning of taking flowers and foliage is remarkable. Many interesting projects could be developed in this park so that people could gain the maximum benefit from their visit.. The various walkways indicated on the board in the village are useful. A riverside entry point at the river bridge from the village would be very welcome.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

More attention to litter is needed in Doneraile. Litter was noted in many places including the main street, at the sign boards for walks in the village, by the bridge and some in the Wildlife park. A concerted effort will help to alleviate this problem. The clean ups mentioned in the application form are very useful as is the provision of bins.

## **TIDINESS**

There is some variation in this aspect - some areas appearing very neat – especially residences and some areas looking somewhat neglected. Some grass and weeds growing from roofs and gutters in the main street and the untidy area at the bridge and outside the timber sawmills do not help the tidiness aspect. Kerbside and footpath weeds/grasses and the buildings that are in need of renovation lower the standards of tidiness. A little upgrading of the mural and the building opposite would be helpful. At some stage in the future hopefully the overhead cables will be placed underground.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Oliver Plunkett Place looks in good condition and the hanging baskets are very effective. The road surface within the estate is very uneven and needs attention in this regard. Canon Sheehan place is neatly presented. There are a considerable amount of residences in the main street that are well tended – but also a number, as was mentioned above (relating to

business premises) in need of redecorating. On the approach roads the houses are generally well treated and gardens and homes appear well.

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

The road surface through the town is very uneven and needs some resurfacing work, The work of the committee may be to try to have this achieved. The weeds on kerbsides and on the pavements at buildings were unattractive. Hedgerows on the approach roads are attractive and give a nice entry to the town. Treatment of back areas is important. These are the areas you can see up by the sides of buildings, passageways - as that from Oliver Plunket place and spaces surrounding buildings such as at the sawmills and old petrol station.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The setting of the wildlife park gives great character to this town together with the streetscape with its fine three storey buildings. Some work is needed in order to bring out the full potential of the town and maximise the assets.