

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	224	221

Doonbeg, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Committee is to be congratulated on their fine presentation and especially on the breakdown of the three-year development plan, which is really a core requirement of the Tidy Towns Competition. This plan explains your future programme of work and targets to be aimed at.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Much has been achieved within the physical fabric of the village, such as the painted Village Hall and School and the playground completed to a satisfactory level, and future works already started such as the lakeside amenity area and the Doughbeg Amenity Area. The Committee should consider entering the Village Paint Scheme, with guidance from a paint firm and an inspection of similar schemes undertaken by other towns such as Ennis and Kilrush. Greater attention should be given to the construction of stone walls, especially their capping. Many stone walls are now finished with the top of walls in a cement slurry, and sometimes with small stones widely spaced within this slurry finish. This is not an acceptable finish, especially when considered against the very fine stone walls that are a tradition in Clare. The adjudicator noted, with much interest, their proposal to approach the E.S.B. on the undergrounding of wires on Main Street.

LANDSCAPING

The adjudicator notes the planting of indigenous trees to attract wild life in the three-year development plan. This is an excellent approach and would get over the reliance on window boxes. Again, the proposal to introduce selected plants by the lakeside to also support wild life is excellent.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

On the many beaches and mud flats there are the opportunities to erect both bird hides and outdoor boards illustrating the many birds in this immediate area. The adjudicator would look forward to this very important series of related projects.

LITTER CONTROL

Very little litter was observed and the Committee is to be congratulated, even though there would seem to be the overall need for additional litterbins in the developing amenity and beach areas.

TIDINESS

Though there is a general tidiness throughout the town, there are also areas where a programme of tidiness should be organised by the Committee, with the help possibly of the

school, in monitoring and helping in putting it right. It is accepted that the building area around the construction of new housing is untidy, but it is assumed both the road surfacing and footpaths will be completely repaired for next year's Competition.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the single homes, both in the town, on the approach roads and on the roads to the beach and harbour areas have excellent front gardens, which are a great visual addition to the pleasantness of the town. It is hoped that the new housing will contribute to further visual improvement of the Main Street. The programme for the assistance in upkeeping the front gardens of homes of the elderly is excellent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Main Street presents a very pleasant appearance, with its mixture of building types, general colour and front gardens. At the entrance roads to the town, additional attention should be devoted to grass cutting and the strengthening of existing planting by some additional tree planting of indigenous trees. There are some litter problems and poor road surfaces which should be attended to.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very pleasant town, tidy and free of litter. Congratulations.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (30/07/01)

Some weeds at the base of a stone boundary wall on the Kilkee Road created an unfortunate impression. The centrally located park in the village centre was greatly admired as were the hanging baskets on the bridge – quite a lot of litter was evident adjacent to this which was most unfortunate. Most of the shop fronts were brightly coloured – in particular Morrissey's traditional front was greatly admired. It is to be hoped that the new houses being built opposite the church will maintain the character of the village. Generally the village looked well cared for on the day.