

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	22
Litter Control	40	20	19
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	199	194

Doneraile, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As referred to in earlier reports an outline plan of future Tidy Towns activities over a three or five year period would be of great benefit. Apart from its historical links, the village has many very attractive characteristics, buildings etc. It is set in an unspoiled tranquil location and with a co-ordinated plan for its future development, such a plan would contribute to an orderly progression of an important rural village and community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many interesting historic buildings in this village and these are generally well presented and maintained. The Catholic church with the fine sculpture of Canon Sheehan in the foreground is excellently maintained. The Church of Ireland church at the other side of the village is also a lovely building and here too the building and adjoining grounds are beautifully maintained. The Christian Schools building, which is itself very well maintained, is impressive but the surrounding area is quite derelict, in particular the disused building across from here. The Nagle Rice Secondary School building and adjoining grounds are very well presented. The houses in the town associated with Canon Sheehan are excellently maintained. Business premises in the village such as the St. Leger Arms, O' Donnabhain are nicely presented. Doneraile Community Centre is nicely presented. The old hall is a real eyesore in the village.

LANDSCAPING

The green area and shrub planting at the Charleville approach end of the village look well. The tree planting in the area near the bridge is a good development but the entire area looks very neglected with very high grass and weed growth and this would need to be attended to. Window boxes and hanging baskets have been used very effectively along the main street. The tree planting on the Mallow approach to the village is a good development. The planting at the Grotto looks well and is very well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Undoubtedly the Wildlife Park is a most valuable amenity for the community. It will prove to be very beneficial not only for recreational purposes but also from an economic point of view because it is going to attract many visitors to the area. Having such an extensive wildlife park and nature amenity in the vicinity will, when fully established, prove a major attraction in North Cork.

LITTER CONTROL

There are areas of the village where there is a greater need

for litter control, for example, that entire area in the vicinity of the Christian Schools building, where there was a very considerable amount of litter at the time of adjudication. Also there was litter in the vicinity of the disused garage/filling station at the Fermoy end of the village. There was also some litter at the entrance to the Golf Club. The main street of the village was litter-free.

TIDINESS

There needs to be a general tidying-up of the general area at the Fermoy end of the village. Old Court Cemetery was tidy and well maintained. The area around the old hall was very untidy. On the Buttevant approach to the village there was some rubble on some stretches of road and this would need to be tidied up. Areas in the vicinity of the bridge would need to be tidied up. Overall there needs to be a greater level of tidiness throughout the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There were many well maintained houses and gardens in and around the village. The houses at Canon Sheehan Place were nicely presented. Oliver Plunkett Place was quite tidy. Many of the houses in Convent Road had very colourful flower tubs and window boxes in place. Houses and gardens in the vicinity of the Grotto were particularly nicely presented. It was noted that many of the houses in Main St. had grass growing on the roofs and gutters (this was referred to in last report) and this gives an unfavourable impression.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Tidy Towns Committee and the community are to be congratulated on the erection of the very attractive Welcome signs – “Doneraile – A Historic and Literary Heritage;” these are colourful and tastefully designed. The old stone wall on the Charleville approach could be cleaned – there was a considerable amount of grass and weed growth along here and this would need to be attended to. The grass verges on the Charleville approach could be trimmed in neater fashion. The fine stone entrances to Doneraile Estate are impressive. Many traffic signs and poles within the village are rusted and in need of repainting. The cleaning of the old stone wall on the Fermoy approach is a good development. The new entrance gates and stone walls to Pairc Ui Shiochan look well – rubble remains inside the gates. The approach road from Mallow was quite good but grass verges on the Mitchelstown approach were very overgrown.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is an atmosphere of history and antiquity about the village. A firm foundation exists to enhance the village considerably. All the ingredients are there and with a well coordinated plan, working with the relevant agencies, especially Duchas, this could be transformed to a very much more attractive village. Any changes and improvements however need to be carried out sensitively so as to retain the

basic character of the village.