

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DONAGHMORE**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	25
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>189</b>

## **Donaghmore, Co. Laois**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Donaghmore is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition.

Your planned work programme has not been submitted with your application. It is difficult to progress in the competition without the adjudicators having knowledge of your plans to cover the next few years. Try to ensure that a copy is sent in, on time for next year's competition. You are encouraged to develop your social and cultural heritage to the point where it can be enjoyed by the wider public.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Both The Bridge View House and Mooneys pubs are fine buildings located in the heart of the village and are presented to a high standard. The old buildings of the mill complex are obviously of historic, social and cultural significance and provide wonderful opportunities for passing on that heritage to future generations. A start appears to have been made here, although no details have been given in your submission. One surmises from the FAS office at what seems to be work in progress, that some developments are afoot here. The back boundary wall of the Hotel could be refurbished. We look forward to the redevelopment of the old Court House.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The four small greens at the church in the heart of the village could feature some landscaping and general amenity. Whatever is done here, ensure that simplicity is the key note. The village pump on the village green should be refurbished for next year. Well done on extensive landscaping carried out, particularly along the main road. Permanent planting such as trees and shrubs is of greater value than flower displays. Landscaping near the top of the Skirk road is extremely attractive.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There appears to be work in progress, (presumably for the development of amenity) at the riverside. Details have not been submitted in the application, so it is difficult to allow marks for these. No doubt the work will be completed for next year's adjudication. Roadside verges have a rich diversity of flora. Perhaps an appropriate project would be to undertake a species count. The stream also presents an opportunity for a wildlife project to enhance public awareness.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is very good. Some scraps of litter were noted out the Borris-In-Ossory road but this was not significant.

Send in details of your litter management activities next year as these can earn additional marks.

## **TIDINESS**

Weed growth at the base of the wall leading to the mill complex on the approach road should be eliminated together with weed growth at the base of the riverside wall. The view of the old mill and of the bridge beyond in the centre of the village, when approaching from the Borris-In-Ossory road is quite impressive. The large number of derelict buildings and out buildings present a problem for the committee under this heading. We wish you well in your activities to overcome these problems.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are no housing estates in the village. This may not continue to be the case with the pressure for development throughout the country. Ensure that any future residential developments are well planned, well designed and fit in with the overall character of the village. It is hoped that the development of new housing in the village which you project will double the population of the village will have only positive consequences in terms of caring for the environment and, of course, in terms of social and cultural development also. Existing residential properties are, for the most part, well presented. A couple of gable walls in St. Patrick's Terrace could be cleaned or painted.

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

High hedgerow and the dazzling display of Hawthorns in bloom make for a majestic entrance into Donaghmore from the Erril approach road. Congratulations on the fine namestone erected by the Tidy Towns Committee to mark the millennium. Some roadside edges up from the bridge need to be resurfaced together with footpaths. Where stone wall exists under hedgerow, try to reveal stretches and highlight as a feature of the village. Congratulations on the construction of new stone walls and on the millennium project. Car parking spaces marked out on the main road and planted at intervals with trees look especially well and as the trees mature, they will give a gracious 'avenue' effect along the road leading to the old church which is a focal point in the villagescape. The newer church looks well and the simplicity of its green areas is its strength. Grass margins on approach roads have been recently cut and all look very well, especially where these are lined with stone walls. An old pump out the Skirk road should be refurbished and highlighted as a feature. A large building on the Skirk road with a yellow roadside façade and the grey rear sections badly needs cleaning or painting.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Donaghmore is favourable and it seems as though there is considerable work in progress. We look forward to its completion.

