

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2002

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2002 | Mark Awarded 2001 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 42 | 41 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 26 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 226 | 224 |

Doonbeg, Co.Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The expanded entry form, map and the well laid out and concise three year plan were very useful to the Adjudicator on the day, and complied exactly with what is required by the Competition. This documentation clearly demonstrates what has been achieved to date (which is considerable) and your plans and aspirations for the future.

We would suggest that this plan be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that you are achieving the targets set out in the time scale envisaged. If not, then you obviously need to put alternative strategies in place. Doonbeg and its surrounds provide a very wide canvas upon which to work. Your plans to encourage more organisations and indeed all sectors of the community to become more actively involved in the Tidy Towns effort is definitely the way forward.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the premises on the street in Doonbeg were well presented with a good use of colour throughout. However, there is some dereliction and a strategy needs to be put in place in the long term to eliminate this. The Church and surrounds were very well kept. The new extension to the pier is, no doubt, of great advantage to the fishing boats plying out of Doonbeg.

LANDSCAPING

The recent planting was noted in a number of areas throughout the village and it was good to see that one of the flower beds was adopted by the Junior Tidy Towns group.

The Riverside Amenity Park on the right hand side of the road to Lahinch was admired as was the Riverside Park at the other side of the bridge. However, here one had to get over a chained barrier to gain access from the street. On entering the Park we found there was another entrance and a small car parking area but there was no signage to direct a visitor to this. The weather coming up to adjudication was very poor this year and this was taken under consideration. Therefore, no marks are being lost for this area being in need of weeding and the door of the depot inside the gate needing to be painted. The planting of bulbs and winter pansies/polyanthus around the village for year round colour is admirable. The hanging baskets were noted on the bridge. This adjudicator found these too prettifying in a village on the Atlantic coast and would prefer to see the bridge unadorned and your efforts focusing on other areas, such as the lovely Doonbeg beach area where the new car park you are developing is to be welcomed. However, here we felt that the very steep opening to the beach opposite the car park could be dangerous for cars if they attempted to use this and would recommend that some signage to this effect be placed here.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The ducks you fed over the winter were much in evidence at the riverside park with their new family in train. In this section, the planting you have undertaken to date contributes. Perhaps some more wild flowers could be sown on the way to the pier area. Your plans to develop the mudflats by erecting wildlife signs and a footbridge were noted.

LITTER CONTROL

Mostly good, although there was a little litter beside the recycling bins and along the street over the bridge. The good black bins noted throughout the village and in the Park were well maintained.

TIDINESS

The village was mostly neat and tidy except for the area where building is taking place. Obviously, this is on a temporary basis and no doubt the builders will be encouraged to leave the surrounds in a good state when the work is completed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses in and around the village, including the new houses, were mostly contributing in a positive manner to the tidy towns effort. The Junior Tidy Towns work with the elderly on their gardens and general maintenance is very much in the spirit of the competition and is to be highly commended.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The welcome signs on the entrances to the village were noted. However, the lower half of the sign on the pier road was unreadable as covered in long grass. It was noted that the Miltown Malbay road was resurfaced.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As mentioned above, there is a very broad canvas in Doonbeg and this is to be welcomed. Some villages would love to have a river and a beach such as you have, especially the beach, which we would see as a great asset to Doonbeg in the future.

Your ongoing plans are admirable, however, all that has been put in place to date must continue to be maintained to the highest standard. Again, no doubt the bad weather had some influence on your work this year. We look forward to seeing further progress in the Competition in the future.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/02)

The first adjudicator's comment to the effect that there is a 'very broad canvas in respect of work taken on by this enterprising Development Association is very much to the point. Certainly the amount of green spaces from the harbour to the village is very extensive. It may be that the Association took on too much and therefore concentrated on 'prettifying' rather than addressing the wider issues. However, the first adjudicator has given an increase in marks clearly to show that the 'prettifying' has been well done. In fact, the floral decorations were charming at the date of the second adjudicator's visit, but there was much weed growth – inevitable in a wet summer - beside these very tubs, suggesting that insufficient thought had been given to the overall outcome. Considerable builders' spoil was present where building seemed to be in abundance. There was much rusty machinery in the vicinity of the fine new pier, and a lot of roadside weed and sagging wire fences giving an untidy effect. Doonbeg has immense natural charm and immense work has been done in order to enhance it, but it may be that priorities need to be reconsidered.