

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DOOCHARY**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	225

Doochary, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your enclosed 'Draft document – for discussion' is to be commended for its excellent ideas and ambition. It is essential at this point that you finalise this document and adopt a 3 to 5 year development plan that sets achievable timescales for your proposals. In this way your committee will have a focus on each project as it is planned. The attached map of the village is charming but it is not terribly helpful. A map should highlight; areas where improvements have been made, areas where problems remain, the location of buildings of interest etc and would be of great benefit to yourselves as well as the adjudicator. There are some fine views of the town from the Glenties road.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Garda Station is well presented although the roof guttering is somewhat overgrown with weeds. Do try to relocate the plethora of overhead cables, within the town, to underground ducting as this really does enhance the streetscape. The property to the left of the health centre is well-presented and has a good selection of flower boxes to the front. Teach Tabhairne O'hAnluainn has had some repairs (new windows) done but still needs painting and the area behind it could do with some attention. The church is very attractive although Colaiste Chonaill appears run down and in need of attention. The restoration of the ice-house is well done although it is not sign-posted and is somewhat overgrown. Also, improvements could be made to the paving on the approach to the ice-house. The national school is well kept.

LANDSCAPING

There is a very pleasant area of landscaping opposite the Post Office and a very attractive stone wall, just down from McDermott's garage which has new trees planted behind it. The seating area looking onto the river and one or two other choice areas would benefit from being landscaped. Further planting within the village environs was admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is no doubting the rich and varied habitats that surround Doochary. It is important that you survey, conserve and promote these areas. The river itself looks very attractive and was being fished on the day of adjudication. Is there a river bank walk? Congratulations on the Environmental Award.

LITTER CONTROL

There are several fly-posters on telegraph polls which are unsightly and such activity should be discouraged. Apart from a number of plastic bags, seen in trees, the town was tidy. But do remain vigilant and increase the number of bins around the village

TIDINESS

McDermott Bros. garage is very untidy with a lot of scrap cars lying around, do try and encourage the owner to improve on this for next year. A portable cabin and a house, on the Lettermacaward Road, are very overgrown and untidy although a nice rhododendron is growing at the latter location.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The house opposite the church and Colaiste Chonaill is freshly painted and has a pleasant tin roof. The new housing development looks fine and is of a scale appropriate to the village itself but the area at the back is in need of landscaping. Leaving on the Lettermacaward road, there are a number of caravans located on the right hand side, are these used by residents or holiday makers? Many residents have not maintained their gardens to a high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Letterkenny approach road is in fairly good condition and is very pleasant with trees on either side. There is a fine view of the river as you enter the town and a good footpath at this point. There is a good stone wall on the right hand side and the road here seems to have been recently resurfaced. The roads and pavements are in good condition in the area outside the Garda Station. The Glenties road is generally in very poor condition with a lot of potholes and needs to be resurfaced. The road to An Clochan Liath is in good condition and freshly painted but the grass verges do need attention. There are a number of sign-posts in Gaelic only which is perhaps a little unfair on tourists and visitors to the area. What would be your policy on this? The cork-screw road is in urgent need of attention and local concern is well justified here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Doochary is a very attractive village.