

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doonbeg Village**

Ref: **448**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **231**

Category: **B**

Date: **29/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	231	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for entry form with attachments and plan. Also the detailed map showing the developments already accomplished and those proposed. We note that a new body - Doonbeg Business & Marketing Group has been set up and that this group will work with Doonbeg Community Council on Tidy Towns. We look forward to receiving the new 3/5 year strategic plan for Doonbeg which you intimate will be produced when the new Committee are put in place. The partnership approach adopted throughout whereby you work in co-operation with a number of statutory bodies and, most important of all, the local community is commendable. Further documentation received the by Adjudicator on July 1st outlined structure of new 16 person Committee entitled "Doonbeg Tidy Towns and Countryside".

The Built Environment:

The business premises in Doonbeg were mostly looking well on the day of adjudication including those buildings across the bridge. Here we noted that the storage shed had been painted and that it is in the pipeline that the School also to be painted. These actions will brighten up this area considerably. Two buildings that stood out were the well maintained and decorated Garda Barracks and the Post Office with its window boxes overflowing with colour. The pier area falls between built/landscaping categories. As it stands the surround area at the pier appears to have "happened" rather than being planned. A simple suggestion would be that a parking/storage area be developed to the left of the castle and that trailers, refrigeration units etc be sited here and that the grass area

to the right be nicely cut and some seating be provided. The mounds of stone remaining from recent work at the pier, which is being given to the Tidy Towns Committee for future use, at present compound the problem.

Landscaping:

The planting of 400 indigenous trees near the football grounds is a major achievement. Unfortunately, we did not get to see these due to ongoing road surfacing on the day. It is good to undertake new projects but those put in place already must be maintained also. At the riverside park the grass was nicely mown and the seating and lanterns admired. However, some of the flower/shrub beds and the paths here were weedy. There were no hanging baskets on the brackets on the bridge. The car park area at Doughbheag Amenity area was very poorly maintained inside and outside the new and attractive wall which has been put in place here. Planting was poor here also in the flower tubs, as it was in other areas of the town also. If you have tubs such as this they must be a riot of colour or they make no impact. Permanent planting is preferable and the flower bed maintained by Junior Tidy Towns was looking well as was other permanent planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on maintaining the duck feeding programme over the winter - this is quite a commitment. We note that you are planning further action with the Shannon Region Fisheries and look forward to hearing of these in the future.

Litter Control:

The village was practically litter free - bins were noted in strategic positions and litter awareness has obviously been promoted in a successful manner. We noted that you participated in the National Spring Clean and plan to erect litter awareness signs also in conjunction with Clare County Council. In connection with the Clean Up it would seem one in the year is not sufficient as Doughbheag Beach had a considerable amount of litter which looked as if it had been washed up on the shore.

Tidiness:

Because of ongoing residential building and road works Doonbeg did not present a very tidy aspect. However, as these actions are outside of your control no marks have been deducted. The cemetery car still contained large heaps of gravel - it would seem that at present this is being used as a storage area.

Residential Areas:

Houses in and around Doonbeg were mostly well presented and the assistance of the elderly by Junior Tidy Towns to achieve this result is commendable. No doubt you will be encouraging new residents to become involved in your endeavours in the future.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the day of Adjudication road works were taking place in the centre of the town and there were detours to get in and get out which was a little disruptive. However, it was good to see that this work, which was recommended in last years report, has commenced. Probably because of this work signage has been disrupted also. It was noted that there were no Yield right of Way signs on the road up from the pier where it joins the White Strand road and also on the road into the village from Doughbheag beach. We note that you plan to sign the Lakeside Amenity Park from the side road.

General Impression:

Doonbeg is a village with great potential and we look forward to considerable progress in the years ahead.