

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doochary**

Ref: **119**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **230**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	31	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>229</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The information submitted with the application form pictures and hand drawn map were all very helpful. The commanding drive into the village sets the scene for introducing the natural beauty and uniqueness of this lovely village. The sense of locality and community effort is apparent when you arrive in the village. There is a keen sense of protection and enhancing the natural environs but there is potential to further develop the natural wildlife and resources of the village working in cooperation with the statutory bodies and local residents and groups to get projects off the ground.

### The Built Environment:

The centre of the village is well presented. The Post Office, Garda Station and Teach Gleann Ceo are well maintained buildings. The Terraced houses at the end of the village were nicely painted and had flowers. The Church is now a focal building for the village and the car park across from the Church is a nice addition. The Prefab Building beside the Church Colaiste Chonaill is derelict and could do with being demolished or removed. There are a number of houses that are also vacant and in need of attention. The stone work walls and flower surrounds by FAS is lovely and is in keeping with the history and character of the village. The Bridge over the Gweebarra river is a lovely aspect to the village also. The housing estate beside St. Conal's in general had a nice appearance and some of the houses were well kept and had flower boxes. The picnic and observation point were nice also the seating with granite table in front of the apartments looks well.

## **Landscaping:**

Most private houses are nicely landscaped and those that have hanging baskets and flower pots stand out. With the village being so compact in the centre I would suggest that more of the private houses and properties might look at investing in hanging baskets and Flower pots especially for the summer months, visually it would be have good impact as you arrive in the village. The areas around the picnic table in the centre of the village could do with some weeding some more flowers and greenery would also add to this focal seating area in the village and the green lawn could do with a trimming. The same would apply to the Viewing area over the river, where some flowers and shrubs would be very attractive. The Timber fences against the natural foliage and greenery towards either side of the bridge are very attractive and are well maintained.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

I would suggest that within the natural confines of the River Gweebarra and Green belt areas there is an abundance to develop Wildlife and natural amenities and ample opportunities for wild life appreciation in the village. It would be nice to have some information Plaques/Signage that would illustrate the fish, birds and mammals that are local to the area located at points of access to the river (Bridge) or an information point in the centre of the village. School projects relating to the local environment would be good and an ideal way for children to become involved in the community and appreciate the uniqueness of their local area. It is excellent to see the focus on the river, maintaining the salmon spawning grounds and still having increased stock in the river by 300%. It was lovely to see a salmon being caught by a truly delighted visiting English fisherman on my recent visit to the village.

## **Litter Control:**

Some small amounts of litter were spotted at the bridge but overall the village on the whole was litter free presenting a very clean and tidy appearance. It is commendable for future protection and appreciation of the importance of litter control to include the local children and to emphasis their part in the overall litter free campaign for the village.

## **Tidiness:**

All approach roads were well maintained and the village looked clean and tidy. The Bottle bank in the village was neat and maintained. There was the apparent eye sore of the old cars, trailers and parts at the Garage on the corner after the Bridge possibly some discussion could take place to screen this in some way with fencing/decking. Off the main Village road some derelict buildings such as the Colaiste Chonail and old houses that need attention.

## **Residential Areas:**

Most houses were very well maintained and tidy and there was a sense of pride in the homes and the gardens add to the beauty of the village. Some were note worthy such as the nicely painted House next to the Health centre, all along this row the properties were well tended and looked after. The new housing estate on the Lettermacaward Rd. for the most part was kept well, I would suggest some bedding/trees and planting in the green lawn area in the centre would enhance the estate and give a sense of participation and community involvement. On the main street the main buildings as noted were well kept and appearance was good, I would suggest some hanging baskets or window boxes for this main area as a focal street in the village and a possible a new sign for the B&B on the end.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

There is some work still to be done here. Attention to a number of roads including some of the back roads and the road down from the church could with some attention. But the Corkscrew Road is impressive and it is a good road as entry to the village setting off a lovely picture of the village and river. The road surface of the new Road by the school is in good condition. I would suggest that where FAS can continue to build with natural stone the walls and footpaths in and around the village that that can only add to the natural features and beauty of the village.

### **General Impression:**

Doochary is a lovely village in which the work carried out to date by the dedicated committee blends in well with the character of the village and is in keeping with the traditions of the village. There is an evident sense of pride from the committee and dedication from the report submitted. It takes time to bring about certain aspects of improvement. Drawing up a workable plan and setting realistic targets is the start of a successful project and having such a lovely natural environment is a definite plus. Congratulations on the work carried out so far and I wish you well with continuing plans.