

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doonbeg Village**

Ref: **456**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **237**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	37	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	237	231

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for extended entry details, good sketch map and three year plan 2005-2007. These documents were set out in a very professional manner and gave a good insight into the work undertaken by the Tidy Town's Committee. Just two comments – perhaps the Committee would consider starting the work earlier as to be ready for adjudication work would need to start around April. Secondly, we would congratulate you on the three Festivals that you plan to stage in Doonbeg. These Festivals are very worthwhile for a number of reasons. They will bring together the more established and newer residents in Doonbeg and also provide funding for some of your projects. There are now quite a number of new residents in the village and it would be important that these are involved with the work being undertaken by the Doonbeg Tidy Town's Committee and join in your endeavours. We would also suggest that you consider entering other competitions (if you have not already done so) such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental Initiatives and any Competitions being organised by the Local Authorities, as appropriate.

The Built Environment:

The public buildings such as the Church, the School, the Post Office and the Garda Barracks were

very well presented. Also businesses in and around Doonbeg were contributing with the provision of hanging baskets and window boxes at their premises.

Landscaping:

The various planted areas around the village involve large commitment by the Tidy Town's Committee. The colourful hanging baskets on the bridge were admired. These have been reduced to six and this is sufficient and not over intrusive. The considerable work undertaken at the cemetery was noted and we look forward to the completion of same. Unfortunately the Doughbheg amenity area was rather weedy even though your documentation states that this area was sprayed. Also the pier area with the various containers and mounds of stone nearby is still rather an eyesore. No doubt plans are in mind to rectify this situation. The large plantation of trees planted at the football grounds and maintenance of same are a credit to the Committee and were looking very well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The continued feeding of ducks during the winter is a worthwhile project. The whole shoreline area is very much a wildlife habitat and we would feel that visitors would be interested in learning about the various birds frequenting this area. Perhaps a display board giving these details could be erected.

Litter Control:

There was virtually no litter to be seen in Doonbeg on the day and the black bins were noted in strategic positions - well done. The Bring Bank area also was very well maintained neat and tidy. The signs in various locations requesting that Doonbeg be kept litter free were noted.

Tidiness:

In regard to tidiness we would bring up again the area the pier which definitely needs a long term plan. Otherwise the village was quite neat and tidy throughout and kerbs weed free.

Residential Areas:

New housing estates are very evident in Doonbeg and the one on the main street seems to be settling in and merging with the village in a compatible manner. Some of the older houses on the road to the Doughbheg amenity area needed some attention to their surround walls. However, in general most houses are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces were looking better in and around Doonbeg and especially the road out to the pier. The Welcoming signs containing information of the facilities in the village are a very pleasant way for visitors to get their first glimpse of Doonbeg. The Yield Right of Way sign mentioned last year on the way up from the beach was in place but straight on to the road and not facing the motorist. We did not notice a Yield Right of Way sign on the other road from the White Strand where the pier road joins this thoroughfare.

General Impression:

Doonbeg is a village with aims and ambitions for the future and your three year plan set out in a very concise manner where you want to go. Keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

Doonbeg has now reached the stage of the competition where a second adjudication is accorded. Congratulations on this achievement. The increases in marking proposed by the first adjudicator have been endorsed with admiration by the second. The ubiquitous poles and wires, which obtrude in the village as well as in the surrounding landscape, should be removed in the former as early as budgetary and Local Authority conditions determine; the resulting visual change for the better that has been seen in, for example, such villages as Mountshannon and in town centres like Kilrush, should be an objective. This adjudicator admired the landscaping by the bridge, while questioning whether this style of urbanised park is really suited to a village environment; on balance it must be, so long as natural marshland, scrub and wild hedgerows are allowed to continue on the outskirts; in fact, it was good to see how well modulated was the change from urban to rural particularly on the Kilrush road. (Ragwort, however, should be severely dealt with.) The unsightly corrugated iron roof near the bridge should be painted or replaced; its prominence gives an unusually poor impression to the visitor arriving on the Ennistymon road – in fact it is quite a small structure, but it is in the addition or subtraction of small details like this that marking can rise or fall accordingly. Most of the many new homes respect the scale and materials of the traditional village houses, while remaining distinctively of the present time. Do use your influence to prevent extensive estates growing up in locations remote from village life, in order to conserve the sense of community. Also, encourage infill housing in spots that may become vacant in the village centre. You may expect increases in marking to be much harder to come by now that you are in the higher category. Every good wish for your endeavours.