

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doochary**

Ref: **715**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **236**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	236	230

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your support documentation, photographs and nicely drawn bilingual map which were much appreciated by the adjudicator. The commitment and participation by the community in your Tidy Towns effort is evident in the improvements made since last year. A realistic and detailed annual work programme which feeds into your Development Plan 2004- 2007 is now essential if you are to achieve your potential in this competition.

The Built Environment:

The built environment of Doochary is generally well presented. St. Conal's Church was again looking very well. The Ice House, currently for sale, is an historical landmark. Hopefully any potential buyer will ensure it retains its character in future development. The row of cottages were beautifully presented and well maintained. The area of the proposed fountain close to McDermott's Garage which has some young trees planted appears overgrown. The Garda Station, Post Office and Teach Glean Ceo were well presented. The committee should be proactive in encouraging existing and new businesses to use traditional shop fronts which are in keeping with the character of the area. The new apartments to the rear of the main street are well maintained. The new stone walls throughout the village are a credit to the CES scheme and add to the rural appeal of Doochary. A small number of derelict or unoccupied buildings are still an issue. Continue to liaise with the owners to encourage improvements.

Landscaping:

The linear landscaped area adjacent to the bridge is well kept and maintained. Some nice colourful hanging baskets were noted at the Post Office. The row of cottages at the bottom of Corkscrew Hill are very colourful and nicely landscaped. Well done to all concerned. Trees planted on the Letterkenny approach are maturing nicely. A schedule of monitoring and caring for these and other trees around Doochary should be in place to ensure this investment in there for generations to come. Seating and plants in front of the Health Centre and adjacent premises are very welcoming. The completion of the landscaping at Corkscrew Hill is awaited with interest and will we hope include indigenous trees, shrubs, and plants which will give good all year round effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Doochary has the potential to do extremely well in this section. A sub committee should now be formed guided by local wildlife and angling experts to firstly identify local wildlife and natural amenities, then formulate an achievable plan for the next five years. Increasing awareness and appreciation of wildlife and local amenities through the schools and community groups should be an integral part of this campaign. The proposed river bank walks should be a priority under this heading. The newly formed Angling Committee will no doubt wish to cooperate and may consider the provision of information boards, signage etc to facilitate visiting anglers.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good on adjudication day with only incidental litter visible on approach roads. Your involvement in the National Spring Clean Up Campaign and work through the schools is no doubt contributing to your good performance under this heading. The provision of a number of uniform high quality bins suitably located at shops, picnic area, car parts etc should now be considered.

Tidiness:

Doochary has an overall tidy appearance with some small rough areas. The area in front of McDermott's garage still appears untidy and should be screened. The focal point of the bridge could be better presented and weeds should be removed. The new street lighting planned will improve the streetscape providing the fittings are in keeping with the overall rural character of Doochary. The enclosing of the Council Chip site is a positive step. A number of untidy open spaces should be tidied up and where possible landscaped with low maintenance shrubs and planting.

Residential Areas:

There are some excellent examples of well kept and nicely landscaped properties throughout Doochary. The row of cottages previously mentioned are particularly appealing and create a very positive first impression of Doochary. Well done to those concerned. While most private properties are well maintained a number of houses would look better if they were painted annually and considered some landscaping which incorporated indigenous trees, shrubs and plants. The new housing estate on the Lettermacaward Road was generally well presented with some individual owners making a special effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road surface and footpaths are in good condition. Some road signs are obscured. The foundation under the nameplate on the Dungloe approach could be presented better. A flower/shrub bed at the base would have a welcoming effect.

A viewing point on this access route should be considered in light of the magnificent views as you approach the village. All approach roads were nicely trimmed.

Improvements at the school car park were noted and the taring and stone wall on the Chapel Car Park is excellent. Overhead wires detract from the streetscape.

General Impression:

To be in contention for awards in this competition a proactive approach, with a detailed work programme which the community, statutory bodies and interest groups have a stake in and support is now desirable. Your commitment and dedication to the conservation of your rural environment is commended.

Second Round Adjudication:

Doochary looked well on the occasion of second adjudication and was a pleasure to visit; the church together with its car park and roadside boundary walls are attractively presented as are Teach Gleann Ceo, the Post Office and the Garda station; the old hall beside the church however remains problematic as does the environs of McDermots Garage.

Stone walls look well and the bridge walls were admired; a number of residential properties are in need of attention to their roadside boundary walls and gardens.

We look forward in particular to the implementation of your plan for wild life as this will enhance the quality of life for all; do keep us informed of your activities in this respect.

The map submitted this year was of limited value for Tidy Towns purposes, work carried out for next years competition should be clearly located on a rural place map or sketch map. We look forward to our next visit to your lovely village.