

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doochary** Ref: **364**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **256**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	256

Overall Development Approach:

This has been a good entry. Work is ongoing, and it will be next year or possibly the year after when the results of your considerable developments and improvements can be fully appreciated. Your relationship with the school children, as described in your documentation, is splendid: they will be continuing your initiatives in the fullness of time. Comments on work-in-progress are intended to be encouraging because final comments are not made until work is completed. Members of Tidy Towns committees are encouraged to visit other centres to observe why prizes have been awarded.

The Built Environment:

The positives here outweigh the negatives. Among the negatives are Colaiste Chonall which should, if possible, be removed. (Unfortunately, blighted buildings catch the eye.) Teach Tabhairne O hAnnuain is also in need of attention. The lovely stone frontage of the long building containing apartments was much admired; so was the church, but in a year or so it will need repainting and its boundary wall already does. Some very small vacant stone structures should either be rebuilt or demolished and the stone used for the improvements to other sites. The school extension was still in the process of building work; when completed and being painted, consider taking the opportunity to paint the dull boundary wall along the roadside.

Landscaping:

Doochary is doing exceptionally well under this heading. The holy well with the excellent stone wall was admired. In general, stonework seems to be your strongest point. The interesting stone bays in course of construction were noted, and the stone circles also in course of construction were seen to be truly excellent in design and workmanship. Congratulations to those who are working on these projects - their completion is eagerly awaited. The fountain is an imaginative addition. Planting in the sturdily fenced grounds in the centre of the village looked very well; it is good to see from your photographs that you plant bulbs for spring showing.

Little touches of colour, such as in the hanging baskets, add up to make a very positive contribution. The completion of the extensive and well-built riverside walk will also be looked forward to - it also has a bearing on the Wildlife category below.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your tree-planting programme is admirable. The new walk will make access to the lands by the river easier as well as pleasanter; you should consider erecting illustrated boards showing the trees and plants, and the bird and animal life to be found in the neighbourhood - this has become very popular in other centres. Whin and broom and other native flowering species were seen at their best at this time of year.

Litter Control:

Those who take part in your litter clean-ups are to be congratulated. At some stage in the future it would be wonderful if litter clean-ups became unnecessary. Very little disposable litter was seen at any point in the village.

Waste Minimisation:

Yours is an above-average mark given in the first year of this new category - a category that will take on greater importance as time goes on, when the optimum mark on offer will be increased. It is encouraging to read that you have distributed compost bins and that you feel that more attention should be devoted to this subject.

Tidiness:

In spite of the excellent stone walls, the area in front of McDermott's has an unkempt look. (A small point: the fine stonework round the lighting pole is admirable but the pole itself is remarkably rusty!) The gable of the Motor Engineer's was in need of painting at the time of the visit. An untidy garden was seen opposite the church. A pity there was so much weed growth at one of the mobile homes. It is good to read that local people and their children help to keep the homes of the elderly.

Residential Areas:

It is good that many of the core residential buildings in the village have been preserved: they are what provides Doochary's real character. More recent housing is reasonably well integrated, and individual homes kept with real pride. The un-named housing estate on the Lettermacward road was neat and clean but could do with more planting - especially trees in the open area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the main road surface and footpaths were in good condition, and this remains the case. Very good wooden fencing was seen in several places, notably by the lake. Excellent stone wall boundaries should be mentioned again.

General Impression:

A great deal of fine work is being undertaken, and it is clear from your documentation that a really serious attitude is taken by the committee to the enhancement of the village and its neighbourhood. It has been a real pleasure to see the improvements. Every good wish for your continuing success.