

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doonbeg** Ref: **67**
County: **Clare** Mark: **255**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	255

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form, up to date work plan and the helpful sketch map of your village. Good to note that you have good involvement from all sectors of the local community and that you are interacting with the local authority and other relevant agencies. Doonbeg has made good positive progress in the last number of years and this is reflected in your marks.

The Built Environment:

Doonbeg has had a major influx of new residents in the last few years and this has resulted in major infrastructure changes to the village. Your challenge now is to cope with the increase. The type of new developments are very much in keeping with the original landscape and the only concern that the adjudicator would voice is that too much of this type of "progress" may suffocate the uniqueness that Doonbeg has to offer. Public Buildings that looked impressive included The Garda Station with disable access provided. The FAS Building, The Post Office, the new school and the fine church. The premises noted were Comerfords, Turbidys and Morrisseys. A number of private residencies and owners are to be congratulated on their upkeep overall. We urge you to preserve the traditional features of the village.

Landscaping:

The colour factor was very noticeable within the village and the outskirts on the day of adjudication. Well done to all involved. Wonderful to note the involvement of the children in the area adopted by Junior Tidy Towns. You have made good choices in trees, low maintenance shrubs and various colourful annuals. You have chosen well to suit the surroundings particularly in terms of contrast and greenery in colour. One cannot leave this section without commenting on the magnificent village amenity that is your Riverside Lake amenity park. Such a wonderful asset to anyone visiting Doonbeg. The church lacked colour; planting would improve the overall look.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Again, what a wonderful haven for wildlife – the Riverside amenity park and Corcadh swamp area. Well done on the Biodiversity community project. I hope you found it beneficial. Also please remember children love such projects and tend to take on board such projects with gusto and learn the importance of wildlife appreciation and conservation.

Litter Control:

Litter control was of a very good standard considering the village was extremely bust with the transient traffic and people visiting at this time of year. Your work in promoting the need for good litter control is paying dividends. Keep up the good work.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a reasonably new area which has to be addressed under the National Tidy Towns Competition. The Race Against Waste is a campaign in raising awareness of better waste management practices. It is incumbent on us all to embrace this in light of our past record among the wider European community. Refer to the Race Against Waste publication, included with the original application package. Initiatives such as the Green Flag project for National Schools should be considered. Again please involve the teachers and children as they enjoy such projects and learn the importance of same at an early stage from best practice. The Recycling Centre Bring Bank was not looking the best on day of adjudication. The units would need to be replaced. There was also evidence of litter, boxes, building cones etc. left by the Centre.

Tidiness:

A lot of good work has been going on behind the scenes and the areas of signage and screening of back areas was noted. The problem of ongoing developments is something that needs to be addressed and it would be no harm to remind developers to keep active sites tidy.

Residential Areas:

The housing development opposite the Post Office was top class. However, the Doonbeg Estate needs major attention in most areas, painting, boundary, walls, etc. Residents should be encouraged to present their premises to a high standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main entrances were all very inviting and congratulations on your new school under construction on day of adjudication. Also the lovely Pre-school opposite and the wonderful facility of the playground which was noted on your application form as needing new fencing. Also noted, were the very much needed footpaths to be restored and display boards to be erected. When completed these will add hugely to Doonbeg – keep up your efforts in getting works completed as soon as possible. Pump House by Riverside Park needs attention e.g. painting etc. Work also needs to be completed regarding the entrance area, gate to be replaced etc.

General Impression:

Doonbeg has a very tranquil and inviting appeal to it and is a great place to relax and take stock and appreciate the beautiful surroundings. The work to date is a credit to the committee and the local community. You have potential to be an award winner in the competition and we urge you to pay attention to detail on items outlined above. We wish you well for 2008.