

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doonbeg** Ref: **67**
County: **Clare** Mark: **268**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	268

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Doonbeg TidyTowns & Countryside Committee for your entry on behalf of Doonbeg village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome to the village of Doonbeg to the 2008 TidyTowns competition.

Thanks to your Committee of fourteen people who take the time and effort to attend your regular meetings in addition to other TidyTowns events. This adjudicator appreciates that this work is a 100% voluntary commitment. Your Committee, a sub-committee of Doonbeg Community Development Ltd, is doing very worthwhile work in this picturesque village and area of Doonbeg of less than 1,000 people. A recommendation for your Committee is the preparation of a very basic three-year plan for Doonbeg to assist you in the further development of Tidy Town targets and initiatives. Your three-year plan would further assist the Committee in forward planning and setting targets up to the end of 2011. This is worthwhile and can of course be altered as the Committee's work progresses over time. A maximum of two pages is all that is required and could be set out in bullet points. Keep it simple, it's probably a matter of listing all new and planned projects.

Thanks also for the detailed Maps and the Work Programme

Your ongoing partnership work with many organisations including, Fas, County Council, Shannon Development, Heritage Council, Coillte, Shannon Regional Fisheries Board, Leader, OPW, Irish Wildlife Conservancy, An Taisce, Irish Heart Foundation and all those that have supported your activities is of obvious benefit to all. This is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities. Your use of a Website, Newsletter, Community Development Office, to mention a few, as part of your communications strategy is very worthwhile.

The work of local people, residents, schoolchildren and others is to be praised.

Well done to the residents who donated a site and growing tunnels for the benefit of TidyTowns landscaping activities.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities into the future. Keep up the good work.

The Built Environment:

Doonbeg is located on a very beautiful rural part of Clare and as previously highlighted is an area where many residential developments have (and still are) taken place over recent times. While this is generally positive the challenge is to maintain the healthy balance between the "old and the new". This is not easy and demands a watchful eye by all concerned.

The Church also looked well, green well cut lawns, the Pampas grass in abundance, but the surrounds lacked colour. Some nice hanging baskets of flowers would improve this area. And set off the lovely Church. The Community Hall is centre stage in the village and is well presented. Buildings in the village that were impressive included: Madigans; Comerfords; A. St George; Whelans; Tubridy's; P.Morrissey. Also the Garda Station and the improved frontage.

The area around Riverside Park is very attractive. Some of the older residential areas are in need of maintenance.

A recommendation in the medium to longer term is to examine the possibility of removing the overhead wires and cables on the Main Street, it would greatly enhance the streetscape of the village if all cables were removed and put underground.

The old "Forge" near the Post Office as mentioned in your submission is worth retaining as a reminder of times past.

Your March 2008 plans for Village Enhancement with the County Council ,Shannon Development and Failte Ireland is significant and should only be of benefit.

Landscaping:

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the Individual houses. The flowerbeds at the entrances to the village are attractive. The ongoing involvement of the children in Junior TidyTowns initiatives is to be applauded. The Riverside Park area is a wonderful amenity and a beautiful restful facility within the village. The timber seat in the Riverside Park is in need of painting to tie in with the excellence of the overall park. The bridge and river area is one of great potential. Hanging baskets on the bridge all add to the peaceful scene. Overall, the work on this area over recent years has paid dividends.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Doonbeg is blessed with a beautiful seaside and mainly rural location in Clare. Every attempt should be made to take advantage of this location. The bridge and river areas are a haven for wildlife and could be developed further. The use of the excellent Interpretative Panels on local birdlife and wildlife is a great initiative and is to be applauded. The Wildlife Panels at Doonmore and at the village centre on the Wildlife of Doonbeg Village and Bays are first class. Well done to all concerned. Your long-term aim, as reported, is to raise awareness of and the appreciation of the importance of biodiversity in Doonbeg Bay and Lough. The involvement of the community in the development of a wildlife park in the Corcach area will benefit all. This is excellent strategy. Could this become a project to be included in your three-year plan for discussion with the relevant organisations?

The involvement of the school children in appropriate projects such as your Corcach project is so very worthwhile.

Litter Control:

The Village was mainly litter free on the day of my visit and obviously the work of TidyTowns Committee is paying dividends.

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage TidyTowns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

The Green Flag award for the School is a project very worthwhile progressing.

Tidiness:

In general Doonbeg looked neat and tidy on the day of my visit. However there are some work-in progress sites which make this task more difficult.

Residential Areas:

The older houses help retain the village character and charm of Doonbeg and these should be maintained to the best possible standards. The estate opposite the Church looked well with some good colour on the houses. The small development of four detached bungalows on the Kilmihil road is in keeping with the local area. The stone entrance and natural grassed bank that acts as a boundary wall is in quite impressive. Some older terraced houses need to be painted if possible.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The access roads, while narrow, were well maintained and the landscaped area at the village entrance helped to make the visitor feel welcome and inclined to stop and spend some leisure time in Doonbeg.

The wonderful facility on the outskirts that is Doonbeg Golf Club must be of much benefit to the village and the commercial businesses of Doonbeg in particular. The magnificent efforts of the local community, both individuals and the Doonbeg Community Development, Shannon Development, other organisations, and the Golf Club developers and management, in bringing this unique project to fruition is an example of what can be achieved in a small community if all positive energies are harnessed. Future projects can learn from such a development.

On the Kilkee road the Doonbeg Football Ground is a further example of wonderful co-operation in a small community. The Shannahan McNamara Memorial Park stands out. As Tom Humphries described the Grounds "like a Field of Dreams it looms on the horizon as you leave the village".

Well done to all concerned.

General Impression:

Doonbeg is a lovely village in which to live work and spend leisure time. Congratulations to all involved in maintaining its natural and built beauty.

The ongoing co-operation between the public, and others, and the TidyTowns Committee is evident in the progress made by Doonbeg in the competition.

Congratulations on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns Competition and good luck for the future. I look forward to further visits to your village.