

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doochary** Ref: **364**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **278**
Category: **A** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	278

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your very informative and very well illustrated pack. In particular, thank you for the most useful and beautifully made little map which was accurate and perfect for use. For all the reasons that last year's adjudicator pointed out, do please make a medium to long-term plan for your work. It will help. Please be careful when hand-writing information on the entry form that everything is legible! Place / street names might be difficult to make out for the non-local adjudicator!

The Built Environment:

Well done on the tasks you've listed for this section of the competition. Most of these would fit into the Landscaping Section, however. The adjudicator will allocate the points accordingly. The Post Office is a very nice building with lovely old signage. The Old Teach Tabhairne might look very well if it were painted. Many TidyTowns groups carry this out on derelict buildings using a whip round for paints having obtained the owner's permission. Could this ever be renovated for a community centre, perhaps? The adjacent wall at the base of the fencing might look better if it were painted white. An Teach Gleann Teo is in good condition and well-painted. The cartwheel and antlers are an unusual touch. The Garda Barracks looks good. The national school looks very clean and white. The church looks very well kept. The terrace containing the health centre is very neat. Both the old and new housing schemes were clean and cheerful.

Landscaping:

There is room for some planting at the national school. The Ice House is a super feature and really could be landscaped appropriately to make it the centrepiece that it could be. The rose-beds and shrubs opposite the Post Office are lovely. The seated area, cairn and associated works by the river are really very good. The O Foinnse go Farrage monument is lovely. The works here must have been a transformation. The church

looks great from here, nestled among the greenery. This is a lovely place to sit, provided the midges aren't too hungry.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river is a wonderful wildlife resource for the village. The old Birdwatch Ireland and ENFO posters are quite faded now but you can ask BWI and the Department of the Environment for more. The line-drawing poster of Fiabheatha na hAite is excellent, one of the best I've seen. The riverside walk is also very well done. The fact that a way-marked route passes through the village will bring interest. You are to be praised for your plans on native tree-planting.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your anti-litter initiatives. No litter was seen on day of visit. A litter-free status does not happen by chance. Your group and community should be justifiably proud.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the community composting initiative. Is this in place? Household and community composting is a great way to reduce and minimise waste. Have you any figures on volumes from your local waste collection? The bring banks were spotless on inspection. How do you encourage reduction in non-biodegradable waste?

Tidiness:

The new stone name sign on the Fintown Road looks good. This could be planted up a little. The inside of the church wall could do with a clean. It is noted that you have addressed the issues raised by the previous adjudicator. The graffiti on the gable end of the old teach tabhairne is as unsightly as it is puzzling. Could this be taken care of?

Residential Areas:

The pride you refer to in your entry is obvious from the appearance of so many houses and gardens. Well done to all involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The work that you have done on the landscaping of walls and car parks etc. on the way into the village is appreciated. The name stones are great. The brown fencing on the Fintown Road leads into the village very well and then the visitor meets the landscaped area.

General Impression:

A highly positive impression is given by this lovely little village. You have set out very realistic goals and you are working toward them with tangible success. The plans for the top of the Corkscrew are admirable. You have effectively dealt with the issues addressed by the previous adjudicator. There is little doubt that Doochary will continue to succeed in this competition.