

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doonbeg** Ref: **67**
County: **Clare** Mark: **274**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	274

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Doonbeg to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. This was the adjudicator's first visit to the village and it was an enjoyable experience. Thank you for the completed entry form and excellent map. The adjudicator noted that a copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was not included and perhaps you would include this for next year. Your large committee of fourteen seems to enjoy really excellent local and agency support. Is there any further news of your grant application to Failte Ireland of May 2008? DCD are giving your work such good support in many practical ways.

The Built Environment:

A lot of painting seems to have taken place in Doonbeg this year including the Garda Barracks. The P Morrissey premises stands out for the good colour choice for the roadside elevation though the adjudicator would not totally favour the lights used here. Are there any plans to conserve what remains of the Castle? A number of retail premises caught the adjudicator's eye. The Igoe Inn that adopts a more contemporary approach has a very attractive well presented frontage. The Comerford premises has done very good work with graphics and the work on the high gable wall here was much admired. On the Kilkee road the Graveyard was tidily presented and there is a fine old stone wall at the roadside here. The unusual design of the Catholic Church appealed as the excellently painted gates.

Landscaping:

The Junior Tidy Towns raised landscaped area opposite the Eircom building was examined and admired. The presentation here is simple and because of that most effective. Well done to the students involved. The adjudicator would like to wish the School well as they progress in the Green Flag Programme. The planting of the new trees at the innovative Tidy Towns allotment is commended as are the other new and extended flower beds that were visited around Doonbeg. The excellent sloping grassy areas running down to the water at the

bridge were much admired; what a fine structure this bridge is. Opposite the Post Office another well presented riverside area caught the eye of the adjudicator. Many tubs, hanging baskets and flower containers have been used around the village most successfully. Just a few timber half barrels needed to be treated.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Winter Duck Feeding Programme is imaginative and not usually undertaken by a community but is really important. Have you thought about a wildlife survey of the Doonbeg area? Given your location there should be great potential in this. Perhaps the School would like to get involved. Why not talk to the local Wildlife Ranger about this?

Litter Control:

It was a good idea to get the School involved in the Spring Clean event. The dumping problem that you have at the Bring Centre has been noted. However on the day of the visit this problem was not evident. The units were a little dirty and needed to be power washed. Litter control was very good.

Waste Minimisation:

The segregation of litter at your clean ups is an important aspect of this category provided that what is segregated can then go into recycling. It was great to read that you now have a Tidy Towns tunnel and cold frame facility. This section is also about waste reduction in Doonbeg. For next year can you look at further possibilities in this regard?

Tidiness:

The seating in the Park has been painted and looked quite smart. Very little weed growth was noted around the village and your weed spraying programme seems to have been successful. Some pavement clutter was noted at the Hayes premises. Goods on the pavement can also cause difficulties for the disabled. On the Kilrush approach at the 50 KPH sign on the left an untidy site was seen behind a gate here. Some signage clutter at the Killard road junction needed attention.

Residential Areas:

Many houses appeared to have been freshly painted. In some estates the adjudicator especially liked the fact that several house colours had been used rather than just one. This helps to give colour and character to an estate. Radharch Na hAbhainn is a good example of this. The new path at Lakeview is a great safety addition here.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Kilmihil approach, banks had been cut but the cut grass had not been taken away. The approach roads were generally well presented as appropriate to such a rural area.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Doonbeg on a fine July afternoon. Good luck with all your plans for 2010 when we look forward to returning.