

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doolin**

Ref: **1800**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **226**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **06/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	26	32
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	26	31
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	24	26
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	15	17
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	25	25
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>226</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome back Doolin and we are delighted to be returning in this, your second year of the contest. You have made enormous progress already with a strong committee and good links with local support agencies. Your use of photos with the application is most welcome and gave the adjudicator a good sense of what has been achieved since our last visit. It's great that you are organising events with the local school and do nurture this relationship. Collaborating on projects will not only benefit the town but will help instil a sense of civic pride in the next generation. Your map successfully highlighted the locations where projects were undertaken this year. It seemed not to be to scale however. Overall this is a good second entry for Doolin. Perhaps for next year you could work on preparing a three-year plan. Consult the Tidy Towns handbook on how to go about this. It would help you to plan in a long-term manner while ensuring that you are addressing each of the contest headings in an even manner.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

You have been active in enhancing your area through a number of wall building projects and tidying up some unsightly corners. Well done for all the hard work. Businesses along Fisher Street were looking very well on adjudication day with colourful and inviting facades. Modern buildings at Fitzpatrick's bar, the tourist information centre etc were also well presented on adjudication day. Both McGann's and McDermot's pubs were looking well. The church is another attractive building for the town. This category will also judge how you present the heritage of your area as well as the promotion of the use of Irish.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The principal landscaping features of Doolin are the sea and the traditional small-scale farming fields. Less is frequently more so always try to work in harmony with these assets. Repairing low stone walls for instance is a great way. You are wished success with your forthcoming viewing area and we look forward to using it in due course. A word of caution when it comes to 'wildflower beds' as many packets of seeds are of dubious origin. Do check the provenance and ensure you are aware of the maintenance requirements before embarking on this project.

### Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

You are commended for tackling Japanese knotweed in this manner and do persevere as it can take many years. You have correctly identified that awareness raising is an important element in this program to prevent further spread. You have many natural assets in your vicinity and the adjudicator is looking for ways in which you use these to raise awareness of nature. This can mean working with the school or promoting talks/walks etc to draw attention to local features. Gathering data is important but it is how you subsequently use them that will really make a

difference.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

You have identified rainwater harvesting, composting and your poly-tunnel as key resource reducing initiatives. These are excellent but don't stop there. You will need to be constantly looking for ways to turn waste into a resource. The adjudicator will be looking for innovations or new projects which build on achievements to-date. If businesses are winning green awards then provide us with the details. If your schools take part in the green flag program be sure to list their achievements here. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

It's great that you are taking part in the national spring clean and it is hoped this will become an annual fixture. It will be important that you keep up a regular programme of patrols and inspections to maintain a high standard required in the contest. New wall enhancements really tidy up these areas and create a good impression. Well done for removing the sign from outside the Coast Guard on the suggestion of last year's adjudicator. Watch out for empty poles and try to get these removed. Plastic traffic cones create an untidy impression and should be replaced with more permanent bollards if needed. Litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard, well done on this achievement.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Homes in Doolin seem to be mostly associated with the tourist trade and all were presented to a very high standard on adjudication day. Rows of apartments were admired for their freshly painted facades and stone wall boundaries.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

You are wished every success with the forthcoming redevelopment of the pier area and no doubt it will give the town a boost. On approach to the town at the church there is a lot of signage clutter with some of them broken. This creates a poor impression. It can be hard to tell where Doolin actually begins so perhaps some thought should go into appropriate signage at points of entry/exit. Road surfacing in places is very bad. Have you discussed this issue with Clare county council? Car parking areas near the pier are clean and well surface.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Doolin is a busy village with many attractions. Your efforts are enhancing the local environment for local and visitors alike and for this you are commended. Do keep up the good work!