

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doonbeg** Ref: **67**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **299**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	36
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>299</b>

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

Doonbeg is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks your application form with supporting information. You have an enthusiastic and energetic committee and this is evident from your application form. The Christmas variety show sounded entertaining and what a great idea for bringing the community together during the darker months. You have a long pedigree in Tidy Towns and it is wonderful to read how this has fostered community pride in your area. It is surprising however that at this level of the contest you are not working against three-year plan. This would identify projects over a medium timeframe and which would be varied to reflect the contest categories. You are urged to refer back to the Tidy Towns handbook for guidance on how to go about this task. Warm congratulations on your all Ireland Pride of Place award, richly deserved. Your map was very well drawn but do aim to include a brief key on the sheet itself as this is carried around during adjudication.

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

Do make sure you familiarise yourselves with the requirements of the various categories. Many of the projects listed here did not really correspond to the headings under which they were placed. Enhancement of the old Protestant graveyard is an excellent achievement. You have also completed a number of smaller painting jobs and well done for keeping this up. The wild Atlantic break was bright and inviting on adjudication day. It complements the many other well painted and presented facades which were admired on adjudication day. Sean Hayes shop was clean and tidy but brackets were sadly missing baskets of flowers. Both Morrissy's and Igoe's were fresh and inviting. Comerford's Bar is exceptional in retaining its traditional facade in such good condition. The tourist office was very clean and well presented. The church is another attractive feature for the village. Tubridy's mural is an attractive piece of artwork.

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

Coastal areas have unique climactic characteristics so that not everything will grow so well. It is useful to look at existing trees and shrubs to see which ones do well – Sycamore for instance seems to be quite tolerant of wind and salt influence. The surrounds of the Doonbeg castle were visited on adjudication day and new trees were noted. However the tightly mown lawn and annual flowers did not seem to be in keeping with the intention of being a wildlife area. The planters seem wholly out of place while simply letting nature take its course would be the best thing for the native plants and animals. Morrissy's green area across the road is very neat but they should be encouraged not to mow so close to the water. 1 - 2 m should be left to allow the native vegetation to express itself. The amenity area by the lake is a fantastic feature and was well presented. To the rear a broken lamp needs to be repaired. At the Garda barracks small flowers in very large containers have little impact, roses or similar flowering shrubs would work better as well as providing year-round effect. The presentation of the curragh and surrounds is

excellent.

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

As pointed out in last year's report you are fortunate to be adjacent to some of the most important areas protected for wildlife in Ireland. The adjudicator wants to see how you raise awareness of these designations so that they become more than merely lines on maps. This can be done through walks or other events to celebrate the diversity of species and habitats. Of course wildlife is not confined to these areas but is in fact all around us. Your projects to encourage wildlife around the castle is therefore worthy. What are the species you were hoping to attract to this area or how will it be used to raise awareness of those that are already there? Japanese knotweed was noted in the site not far from the post office. It is important that this be addressed lest it spread.

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

You have identified a number of projects which point to the high level of understanding that exists of the need to eliminate waste. Composting, rainwater harvesting and the reuse of bedding plants are all excellent, well done for taking part in the 'do one more thing' campaign. This is an area where continual innovation is required and the adjudicator will be looking at how you build upon your success year on year. The school's participation in the green flag award is most important and there are opportunities for you to exchange ideas and new projects going forward. 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:**

You are especially commended for focusing this year's national spring clean on your coastal area. There are opportunities to link this with the broader issue of marine litter – something which affects every part of our coast. You clearly have an energetic system of monitoring for litter and this is excellent. The village as a result is very clean and tidy and you have few issues of concern. The 'keep Doonbeg tidy' signs have the perverse effect of looking untidy and simply adding clutter. Watch out for flyposting for events such as the circus, e.g. on a pole at the bridge, and remove as required. Although litter was not a major problem on adjudication day it was noted in a number of areas in small quantities. E.g. at the graveyard an old election poster was dumped behind the wall along with other items. The bring bank meanwhile was clean.

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

Many attractive homes were admired throughout Doonbeg on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. Where low stone walls have been preserved these are very attractive features. Some boundary walls would be enhanced if painted. At Radharc na hAbhann beautiful freshly painted homes were admired. The Doonbeg holiday village has quite ugly signage in contrast to the lovely homes and well-kept green areas. At the entrance to the Dún na Mara estate the display maintained by the junior Tidy Towns is delightful. Homes here were admired and while green areas are well maintained more trees would soften the appearance.

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

Road surfacing was good through Doonbeg while footpaths are sound and well separated from the road. Parking spaces are clearly marked and this is an important feature in maintaining an orderly appearance (as well as keeping cars off footpaths). Crossing the bridge on foot is a dangerous pursuit. Since it can only accommodate one-way traffic anyway surely there is room for a footpath.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Doonbeg is a charming small town which holds much for the visitor. Well done on all you have achieved in recent years and keep up the good work.