

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Doon** Ref: **717**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **212**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>212</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Doon is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2007. Thank you to the completed entry form and sketch map. It is noted your committee (of twelve members) holds monthly meetings, visits local schools and engages in a variety of other promotional activities. These will certainly spread awareness of your function in the community.

### **The Built Environment:**

Doon's streetscape was well presented. It has benefited from refurbishment and renewal. There are new houses, especially along the edges, and this expansion has been partly completed with extensions of footpaths. At the time of my visit, the new Brothers of Charity centre was still to be opened. This is a cluster of single-storey buildings around a planted courtyard. It should yield a considerable amenity.

The foremost landmarks, including the Church, schools, GAA grounds and cemetery, were all in good order. The Convent Secondary School has a very attractive rubble wall frontage, with a fine gateway at the east end. The old protestant church also has an attractive setting, created by a raised flower bed set behind a perimeter stone wall. However, it currently suffers from weeds and invading ivy. The shop front named 'N. Rainsford Grocer' is well presented. The ornate facade has hood moulds and swags above the windows with decorative tiles at the ground floor level, to either side of the splayed doorway.

It is noted that you plan to create a heritage centre within the old RIC barracks. This could yield benefits, perhaps bringing more support to your committee. St. Fintan's Well could not be reached on adjudication day. The gate was securely locked. This was regretted as it appears to be a place of amenity value.

**Landscaping:**

Doon has scored well in this category. Most of the installations and arrangements were well organised. The established area round Assumption Terrace is maintained well. It is noted that you intend restoring St. Fintan's Well once it is purchased from Limerick County Council.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

On adjudication day, the environs of Doon were arrayed with oxeye daisies. They provided an eye catching context for the other natural amenities in the vicinity. I note you have a project entitled The Golden Mile and you propose to establish a nature walk. If this is based on the laneway almost opposite the GAA grounds then it has considerable potential. It could bind the outskirts and yield a recreation resource. My viewing of that route suggests it is a good choice. There were newly fledged wrens flitting about. However, the derelict car close to the entrance should be removed.

**Litter Control:**

It is noted that litter is collected by Limerick County Council once every week, with a monthly clean-up by local volunteers. I saw a random distribution of plastic water bottles. However, the waste bin outside the CBS School seems to be serving its purpose. It is likely that this aspect would be further improved if, as you plan, there is a daily clean-up by a part-time worker.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Doon can benefit from the presence of the recycling facilities beside the schools. This assists teachers in impressing good behaviour on their pupils. It is noted the schools themselves have installed recycling bins and that your committee aims to increase the frequency of collections.

**Tidiness:**

The GAA grounds is a local asset that is clearly looked after. The same comment applies to the Community Centre. I was also impressed by the care given to the centrally located graveyard. On the Cappamore approach, the name plaque was partly concealed. This overgrowth should be cut back.

**Residential Areas:**

Doon has performed well in this category over the years. Established estates such as Assumption Terrace, Hillview Grove and St. Fintan's Terrace have been complemented. Those remarks still apply.

At Hillview, the grass areas are in good shape but they could benefit from selective tree planting. Likewise, the fine detached houses on the Oola road were well presented, and, yet, would be enhanced by some planting of native trees.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The road network is in fine condition, enhanced by selective planting. Along the Cappawhite road entrance, there is an attractive wide planted verge. Carriageway surfaces appear to be adequately maintained.

**General Impression:**

The Committee (of twelve) has ensured Doon is seen at its best. The recent initiatives are now beginning to bear fruit.