

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Doon** Ref: **717**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **221**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>221</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for submitting your entry form and sketch map, which we found very helpful during our visit.

Your twelve member committee has achieved good work during the past year with support from Limerick County Council. It is encouraging to note that you hold monthly meetings and regular meetings with the schools' Green Committees and organise a Poster Competition. The use of Mass Leaflets and local notes in the local press are appropriate and do send in one or two samples with future TidyTowns entries, they will help the adjudicators to get acquainted with your endeavours. We would also suggest that you organise occasional public meetings, which would give you an opportunity to get feedback on issues of concern or interest.

Now that you are settling into the TidyTowns we suggest that you start work on a plan which could cover 3 – 5 years. It wouldn't need to be prepared by a professional, it can be prepared by your own committee but views should be sought from the local community. Any plan should take into account existing plans for the area such as a County Council Local Area Plan. Ideally your plan should clearly explain what you are trying to achieve each year, the approach planned and indicative costs for each project, any supporting agencies and an indication of the lead partner.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Parish Church was an impressive sight in its immaculately maintained grounds. The fine entrance gates, lighting on the piers and stepped approach all created a very welcoming ambience. Doon is blessed with some fine schools and all were well presented on the day. The new Sunflowers Montessori Community Pre-School, with its eye catching sign, is a wonderful addition to the amenities of the village.

Several attractive business premises were spotted including N Rainsford Grocer (congratulations on winning an award last year), McNamara's with its cute display of DIY tools on the wall, R Martin's general grocer with its petrol pump, attractive hanging baskets, good signage and coat of arms on the building, Patrick Ryan's former pub and the immaculately presented Moore's pub with its lovely window display, appropriate signage, light fittings, flowerboxes and immaculately maintained yard. The little Post Office in the ivy covered building was appealing and White's funeral undertaker's premises was well painted. It was good to see that the recently opened Topaz garage, painted yellow and blue, was operating within a very tidy forecourt. The Community Centre and Sports Complex was located in nicely landscaped grounds. The Old Church Restaurant was a fine use for the renovated church and it was set in attractive grounds with good signage and lovely rose beds.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping on the approaches to the village were fairly well presented with neatly cut grass and little walled flower displays at the white bilingual signs – do check the little flowerbeds to ensure the plants are fresh and healthy. The open area near the 80K sign beyond the Convent had well maintained grass and shrubbery but the white bench needed to be repainted. The new red Dun Bleisce sign nearby added an extra touch of colour. The Grotto, with its pebble stone wall, neat railing and flowerboxes, was appealing. The planted barrels outside the Church walls brightened the approach. The elevated green area at Assumption Terrace was enhanced by bench seating and appropriate tree planting and shrubs but we would suggest that the little retaining wall receive a fresh coat of paint. The litter bin nearby was noticed. At the Cappamore/Rear Cross junction, the stone circled shrubbery needed some fresh plants.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your plan to develop a Nature Walk from Kilmoylan should make a very worthwhile project and as part of the preparations we suggest that you seek advice from a wildlife expert or knowledgeable enthusiast who should be able to help you organise a wildlife survey of the proposed route to identify the various species inhabiting the area. The results of the survey could then be used to prepare information panels for display along the route. Through your contact with the local schools you might be able to get the pupils involved in this project.

### **Litter Control:**

Your monthly clean up sessions, weekly clean up by the County Council worker and twice weekly cleaning of the schools by their pupils seem to be working fairly well, however, we were concerned by the full bins and considerable amount of litter on the ground at the Recycling Area. One damaged green litter bin was particularly unsightly with its door open and litter overflowing. A couple of yellow recycling bins were very dirty and needed to be powerwashed. Litter bins at business premises and on the streets were generally coping well within their capacity but there was some litter in the shrubbery at the GAA grounds. We hope that you will be successful in your aspirations to get a FAS or Ballyhoura employee to provide a daily cleaning service.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Doon is lucky to have recycling facilities at the car park and within the schools but it is important that the facility at the car park is carefully monitored to ensure problems do not escalate. We commend your schools for attaining their Green Flags, congratulations to all involved. While we did not actually see any of the Green Flags flying during our visit, we managed to spot a Munster Rugby Flag flying proudly at one school!

Other initiatives which you might consider to boost endeavours in this sector include the encouragement of individual households to start composting, circulation of waste minimisation brochures to residents in the area or organising a waste minimisation workshop in co-operation with the County Council. Everyone has a part to play in the Race Against Waste.

### **Tidiness:**

It was interesting to note that you have been considering the issue of traffic control and propose to discuss the matter with Limerick County Council. We noticed that the Convent building seemed to be suffering from the affects of traffic at the junction and the painted sections of the wall needed to be cleaned and a rusty downpipe needed to be replaced. At the other end of the property, the pathway at the side of the tennis court should be tidied and weeds removed. St Fintan's old and new Cemeteries were a credit to your caring community. The county council sign at the parking area was damaged and needed to be replaced and the railing over the wall should be repainted. There was a small amount of damage to an inside section of wall at the car park near the recycling bank. Across the road from St Fintan's Well there were a couple of gates held

together with rope and a broken timber plank, it would be good if these could be replaced.

There were a considerable number of overhead wires which detracted from the overall appearance of the village and we would encourage your committee to negotiate with service providers in an attempt to have them placed underground.

### **Residential Areas:**

There were some very attractive developments and good individual properties throughout the village. Assumption Terrace and the little crescent of impeccably maintained cottages, opposite St Fintan's cemeteries, were admired. Some attractive detached properties were under construction just beyond the CBS schools and the housing estate across the road was well presented with a neat green area and some good tree planting. The new development beside the Sunflowers pre-school had some pretty floral displays at some houses but native tree planting and shrubs in the open areas would add an extra dimension to the estate. On the Cappamore approach we were intrigued by the unusual global sculpture at the entrance to a small development. The houses within the estate were well presented but there was a small amount of litter near the sculpture and some weeds between the kerb and road at the back of the development.

We had difficulty in identifying some of the residential estates and strongly recommend that bilingual nameplates be erected where missing.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The roads around Doon were in fairly good condition, grass margins were generally well maintained and your new red Dun Bleisce signs were very welcoming. It was good to see the Keep Doon Tidy and Scoop the Poop signs. While most signs were in reasonable condition they should be checked as we did notice a couple of white bilingual signs which needed to be cleaned. A speed limit sign near the Old Church Restaurant approach also required cleaning and one of the 80K signs had been twisted. A speed limit sign had been obscured by trees and these should be trimmed.

### **General Impression:**

We congratulate your community on managing to regain the Dun Bleisce name for your village and on the hard work which has been completed to date. We wish you well for the future, particularly with your plans for St Fintan's Well, when the ownership issue has been resolved, and development of the Nature Walk, which is sure to be an exciting project.