

Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doon** Ref: **717**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **244**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2010**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009	Mark Awarded 2010
Overall Development Approach	50	32	33
The Built Environment	50	33	35
Landscaping	50	30	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	25
Litter Control	50	26	26
Waste Minimisation	20	10	10
Tidiness	30	17	18
Residential Areas	40	29	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	235	244

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Doon to the 2010 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is most important for the Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form. You included your TidyTowns Plan for the period 2010 – 2012 which was noted. Thank you also for the excellent map and congratulations to the artist involved! Your Committee seems to be most active and meets on a regular basis. In terms of publicity have you considered group text messaging and the Internet? You School links are good and this is important. The press cuttings and leaflets were read with interest and gave your adjudicator a good idea of how well TidyTowns is embedded in the Doon community. It is suggested that your TidyTowns Committee makes frequent use of the new TidyTowns Handbook that issued to all the 2009 Competition entries in January / February of this year. If you need an additional copy it is suggested that you contact the TidyTowns Unit in Wexford at 053-9117347. This publication is also available on the TidyTowns website at www.tidytowns.ie

The Built Environment:

The repainting of old buildings mentioned in your entry form has been noted. Indeed many of the properties in Doon seemed to have been freshly painted. At the Church the new railings were examined. The very good mature landscaping here is most attractive and provides a great setting for your Church. Your adjudicator followed the sign for The Fort and could not find the site. Is the fort in the field behind the fencing? If there is no public access then this sign should be taken down. The presentation of the Garda Station would be improved if the railings were painted. At the Community Furnishings property the hanging sign here was admired. Quite a number of buildings in Doon caught the eye because of their very good use of colour and / or their good graphics. These included the Moore premises with its excellent signage and colour. The landscaping at the Post Office also caught the eye. The Treacys Victuallers premises is a visual delight with the great blue and white colour scheme and really superb graphics. Very good graphics were also examined

at the Community Pre-School. At the CBS one of the signs needed to be re-lettered or replaced. The old tiling on the N Rainsford premises is most attractive and should be preserved. Again a good use of colour is evident here. Both the Health Centre and the nearby Community Centre were visited and were well presented as was the GAA property. Improved lighting at the Church car park was noted.

Landscaping:

The planting of flowers was noted in the entry form and indeed Doon was quite colourful with quite a lot of hanging baskets and window boxes evident. On the Cappamore road new planting was seen and admired. Very good roadside landscaping caught the eye opposite the attractive Old Church Restaurant. This has an attractive natural look. Other small planted areas added welcome additional colour to Doon.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Kilmoylen Bog Walk is an excellent project though the entrance on the Community Centre road is not obvious. Work on styles, signage and the bridge was noted here. This is International Year of Biodiversity and biodiversity is an aspect of the Competition that your Tidy Towns Committee might like to consider for 2011. Your Tidy Towns Committee is probably aware that under the terms of the Wildlife Act the cutting of banks and hedges in the period March to August inclusive each year is prohibited. Professional help is most important in respect of wildlife issues and the following sources of advice will prove helpful – An Taisce, Irish Wildlife Trust, Birdwatch Ireland and the County Heritage Officer.

Litter Control:

You have worked on the Bring Centre and made it more user friendly but some dumping was evident here on the day of the visit. The official signage was not on display here and a damaged low wall at the car park entrance needed to be rebuilt. A little litter was evident on the approach to CBS and occasionally elsewhere in the village. You are so lucky to have FAS working on your litter control and they are doing a good job.

Waste Minimisation:

No projects that came under this adjudication category were noted in the entry form as the Bring Centre is considered under Litter Control. This adjudication category is primarily about the elimination or reduction of waste in Doon. Recycling though very important takes a lower priority. Therefore for next year it is suggested that you examine the waste situation in Doon to see where reduction might be possible. The Waste Minimisation officer in your Local Authority will be able to advise you also.

Tidiness:

The Church car park presentation has improved and your work here is commended. The undergrounding of some cables here has made a big difference. Can this programme be extended to other areas? The display of retail goods on the pavement was seen in Doon. This can look untidy and can also cause some difficulty for the disabled. Projecting signs is an issue in Doon especially on licensed premises. The real issue here is whether they are really needed for promotional purposes or could they be removed by the owners? Opposite Coonagh Court a large untidy area needed to be screened. Between Mace and the Bring Centre the area would be improved by some tidying.

Residential Areas:

Excellent new timber signage at Assumpta Terrace was admired. The tiered grassy mount at the entrance is an imposing feature. Good painting and planting was seen at Bank Place. Coonagh Court would be improved by the individual landscaping of some houses while Glassshathalan was most impressive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The freshly painted long grey wall on the Cappamore road leads the eye into the village and is an important feature. Out along Church Street very good stone walls and verges were examined and commended. The landscaped area at the old Forge on the Cappagh White approach is most successful. What about a heritage panel here?

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Doon and this is an interesting and attractive village. Good luck with your work for next year when we look forward to returning.

